



SUPER / E2

In Istanbul, Ruffa hops from Asia to Europe every day

Top PNP post a toss-up between Calderon, Razon

By Luige A. del Puerto

A TOSS-UP BETWEEN DEPUTY CHIEFS OSCAR Calderon and Avelino Razon Jr. is how outgoing police chief Director General Arturo Lomibao sees the outcome of the contest for the top police post which he is set to vacate next month.

But that assumes that the term of Lomibao, who will reach the retirement age of 56 on July 5, is not

TOP/A8

BUSINESS / B1

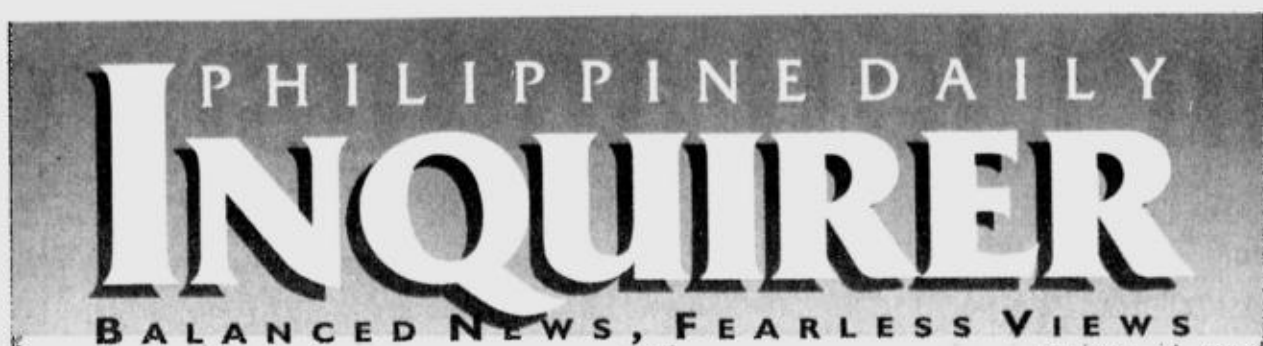
BPI forms banking subsidiary for OFWs, offers 24/7 investment counseling

METRO / A19

P19-M misdeclared ukay-ukay frozen pork cuts and woven fabrics seized

WORLD / A21

FBI arrests 7 people suspected of plotting to hit Sears Tower



Saturday, June 24, 2006

★★

10 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 196 P18

website: www.inq7.net

Now, it's Gloria vs thinking class

By Philip C. Tubeza, Christian V. Esguerra and Armand N. Nocum

IT'S THE THINKING CLASS vs GMA.

Many among the country's intellectual and literary class would want President



NOW, IT'S/A4

GMA in charge: 'I'm fine'

San Beda law school drops 26 top profs

By Christian V. Esguerra

ONE OF THE COUNTRY'S PRESTIGIOUS law schools has lost 26 of its top professors over a row with the dean who decided to keep three senior students who had failed twice in two subjects.

These professors—three of them regional trial court judges—were not re-hired this semester. They were signatories in a petition seeking the resignation of Virgilio Jara, dean of the 58-year-old San Beda Law School.

Many of them had been teaching in the school for at least 10 years until they were shown the door, according to Sixto Brilantes, president of the law school's alumni association and a member of the teaching force since 1966.

"These are no ordinary teachers—they're veterans and good at what they are doing," he told the INQUIRER in an interview Wednesday. "Besides, what wrong have they done to lose their teaching posts?"

Rocky Delson, the prefect of students, yesterday admitted that the 26 teachers were not re-hired in connection with their demand for the dean's resignation.

"They signed the letter demanding Jara's resignation," he told the INQUIRER, explaining that the dean had the right to "demand respect" from the faculty. "So he said, 'perhaps it's better that these professors don't teach

SAN BEDA/A8



THE PATIENT seems impatient to get back to work. President Arroyo looking well and cheery in her suite at the St. Luke's Hospital has her laptop good and ready and meets her chief of staff Mike Defensor and Presidential Management Staff chief Arthur Yap.

MALACANANG PHOTO

President leaves hospital today

By Christine O. Avendaño

EVEN IN HER HOSPITAL bed, cradling a computer on her lap, she gave the impression of being at work and in command.

"I'm feeling fine. I'm feeling fine," President Macapagal-Arroyo said yesterday, in a bid to assure the nation that she was well, up and about, and very much in charge.

A day after being rushed to the St. Luke's Medical Center with abdominal pains, Ms Arroyo, her hair buffed and her face made up, made her first public appearance to show that she had recovered from her ailment and was not suffering from anything else.

Her doctors said she had a case of "acute infectious diarrhea" and that while she could already be discharged from the hospital, her family chose to keep her there until today so she could rest before leaving for Europe on Sunday.

Presidential Chief of Staff Michael Defensor said the President would leave the hospital today and would push ahead with her original schedule to sign a bill repealing the death penalty at 10 a.m.

Defensor stressed that Ms Arroyo remained very much in charge of the government despite her ailment.

"We have nothing to worry. She is giving us directives and directions and so there's no reason for her not to continue to run the government," Defensor said.

"There's no need to really have someone designated as officer in charge. She is in charge."

In a medical bulletin at 6 o'clock last night, the doctors said Ms Arroyo had "fully recovered, (and is) back to her usual self, after she has rested comfortably."

They rejected suggestions that she might have suffered a case of food poisoning, saying they did

GMA IN CHARGE/A6

Infection blamed on killer work schedule

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Christine Avendaño

CABINET OFFICIALS ARE HOPING that President Macapagal-Arroyo's hospital confinement would convince their workaholic boss—who also has a hearty appetite for food—to finally slow down before her killer schedule gets her, and more of her top advisers.

So punishing has been Ms Arroyo's working hours that two of

her previous executive secretaries and a chief of staff ended up having to undergo heart operations.

"I hope this incident will make her realize that any machine that is overworked can have a breakdown," Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez told the INQUIRER.

Ms Arroyo was diagnosed with acute infectious diarrhea apparently caused by work-related stress.

"I already told her months ago that we, she in particular, have to slow down," said Presidential

Chief of Staff Michael Defensor, who was chosen to air the complaints of his Cabinet peers who could not keep up with the President's hectic work day.

But Ms Arroyo did not heed Defensor's request.

"She continued to work from 6 a.m. to 2 a.m. on the average. Even upon the insistence of the core group that drafts her schedule, she overrules us and continues to add more to her schedules," said Defensor.

Gonzalez said that most Cabinet sessions would last seven hours.

"The President controls the meeting, she is never a passive participant," Gonzalez said.

A very late sleeper, Ms Arroyo was also said to bring paper work right to the presidential suite.

Ms Arroyo's style of working, which is characterized by attention to details, has left her Cabinet secretaries gasping for breath or with little time for sleep.

INFECTION/A6

Bomb blasts Maguindanao governor convoy; 6 killed

By Jeoffrey Maitem, Edwin Fernandez and Nash Maulana PDI Mindanao Bureau

SHARIFF AGUAK, MAGUINDANA—A bomb exploded early yesterday at a crowded public market here as a convoy carrying Maguindanao Gov. Andal Ampatuan was passing by, killing six people, including three of his relatives and a three-year old girl, police said.

Supt. Lumala Gunting,

Maguindanao police chief, said at least 10 civilians were also injured in the blast that occurred at around 7 a.m. yesterday. But Ampatuan, a close ally of President Macapagal-Arroyo, was unhurt.

Since 2001, Ampatuan has survived at least 10 assassination attempts by still unidentified suspects.

Many of the bombs used in past attacks were fashioned from mortar shells.

The bomb, he said, was placed inside a red Suzuki multi-cab

parked in front of the town's newly-built market.

"There's no other target but the governor," said Gunting. "Ampatuan was on the lead car and was going to his farm when the explosion occurred," he said.

Most of those killed were in the second car, a Toyota Revo, he said.

The fatalities were identified as Edzrapel Mangansakan Abdulrakman Kasuyo, 50, a defeated mayoralty aspirant in Pikit,

North Cotabato and a close ally of the governor; Kamilon Ampatuan; Cajelo Datumanong, a nephew of Maguindanao Rep. Simeon Datumanong; an unidentified bodyguard, and the three-year-old girl, who was on the roadside when the bomb went off. Another male victim, also a relative of Ampatuan, later died at the hospital.

"It was a well planned attack, but it failed to hit its target," Gunting said.

Investigators who rushed to the scene said the bomb was fashioned out of four mortar shells which were hidden in the van and detonated as Ampatuan's convoy was passing the market.

Col. Franklin del Prado, spokesperson of the Army's 6th Infantry Division, said samples collected from the blast site were consistent with the components of an 81-millimeter mortar shell. He did not elaborate.

BOMB/A8

Step-sis tells how fun trip became a nightmare

By Volt Contreras and Tarrá V. Quismundo

THE TRIP TO OLONGAPO CITY from their native Zamboanga was supposed to be about fun. But things took a horrifying turn and two sisters face the darkest moment of their lives as they pursue a rape case against four United States soldiers.

A stepsister of "Nicole," the 22-year-old complainant in the Subic rape case, yesterday gave what may yet be the most agonized testimony heard at the trial, recounting how a casual dance floor encounter with US soldiers turned their night-out into a nightmare.

Anna Liza Franco, 25, related how she saw Nicole dancing with one of the accused US Marines at the Neptune Club before losing sight of her and finding her some two hours later at their hotel with a police escort and "in a state of shock."

Franco delivered the last 30 minutes of her three-hour testimony in tears, prompting Makati Judge Benjamin Pozon to adjourn the hearing an hour early. She will resume her testimony on Monday.

As the gallery emptied, the sisters embraced, with Nicole rubbing the back of a still sobbing Franco.

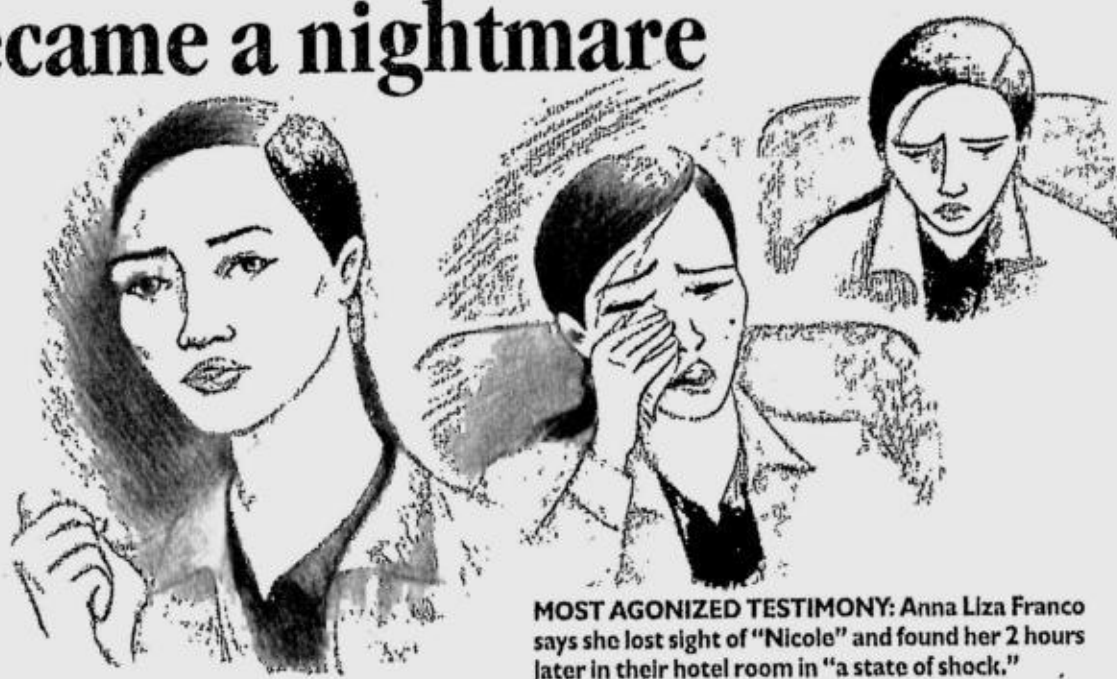
Testifying in Filipino on direct examination by private prosecutor

Evalyn Ursua, Franco told the court what she remembered from the time the two arrived in Subic until the moment she saw a distraught Nicole after the alleged rape.

She also pointed to accused Lance Cpl. Daniel Smith as the man she saw dancing with her stepsister inside the Neptune Club minutes before she lost sight of her.

Nicole has accused Smith of raping her at the back of a Starix van at about 11:30 p.m. on Nov. 1, 2005, while cruising around the Subic Bay Freeport, as Staff Sgt. Chad Carpentier and Lance Corporals Dominic Duplantis and Keith Silkwood cheered him on.

STEP-SIS/A4



MOST AGONIZED TESTIMONY: Anna Liza Franco says she lost sight of "Nicole" and found her 2 hours later in their hotel room in "a state of shock."

STEP BRAYO

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Southern Luzon including Aurora Province, Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rain showers and thunderstorms. Rest of Luzon will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated rain showers or thunderstorms mostly in the afternoon or evening.

COMPILED BY KATE PEDROSO FOR RESEARCH/06/23/06

SOURCE: PAGASA

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Second FRONT PAGE

Text us your feedback: Inquirer news name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bohol	Cloudy with Rains
Bagui	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Laguna	Cloudy with Rains	Dagupan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

'You can't kill an insurgency'

By Luige del Puerto

GOVERNMENT FORCES MAY SUCCEED IN killing every last rebel in the country but the insurgency will not go away that easily, a top police official said yesterday.

"You can kill all the insurgents, but you cannot kill the insurgency," said the Philippine National Police official who did not want to be named for fear of antagonizing his military colleagues.

"It's an aggressive stance, it's a macho stance... it's like killing all criminal elements, but there will be another set of criminals after," said the police official whose views echoed an assessment made earlier by Police Director General Vidal Querol, chief of the National Capital Region Police Office.

President Macapagal-Arroyo's recent order to the Armed Forces to wipe out the communist insurgency in two years has become a source of unspoken rivalry between the military and the police organizations.

Anti-insurgency is traditionally the job of the PNP as the civilian agency in charge of internal security. The AFP's job is to defend the country from external attack.

Various police officials and Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno have urged Malacañang to give the PNP an equal role with the AFP in the new aggressive anti-insurgency campaign which comes with a P1-billion budget.

Querol and the unnamed PNP official provide a glimpse into how the police organization views the government's renewed all-out drive against the Communist Party of the Philippines and its armed wing, the New People's Army.

Querol said military operations solve only one aspect of a multi-faceted problem. After the rebels are driven out, government must

usher in economic development, he said.

Otherwise, the insurgency will resurface "like a virus" needing a more potent cure, Querol said.

"If you take out the armed component and the government does nothing to improve livelihood, at the end of the day people are still poor. If your stomach rumbles, then your mind succumbs... to propaganda," he said.

The unnamed PNP official said the key to solving the rebellion is to allow the same opportunities in urban centers to trickle down to the countryside.

He noted that the NPA has been effective in exploiting the "inability of government to deliver services in remote areas" where job opportunities are scarce and the rebellion offers an alternative way of life.

Querol said the government was on the right track with the renewed anti-insurgency campaign. Any money that would aid the military and police in fighting rebels is very much welcome, he said.

But to strike at the root of the problem is to "liberate ordinary people from the clutches of poverty," he said.

But the unnamed police official warned that "a lot of people would just die" if government moves against the rebels without getting the support of the people.

The battle against the communists must be waged in the context of a "just war," and government must occupy the "moral high ground" at all times, he said.

This means batishing the con-

cept of "collateral damage" from the vocabulary of officers dealing with military campaigns.

"There must be no unnecessary victims... If a non-combatant father dies even [in a] legitimate military operation, the pain remains and the sense of deprivation is there," he said, adding that the surviving kin now become vulnerable to recruitment.

The Commission on Human Rights yesterday said the billion-peso budget for final push against the communist insurgency would be better spent developing far-flung barangays, not on guns and attack helicopters.

"People side with the New People's Army because government has done nothing about their plight," said Dominador Calamba II, CHR officer in charge.

"The NPAs lend them money, give them fertilizers, help them in their livelihood," he said.

Calamba said it was the government's right and obligation to fight the insurgency and protect the state.

"But the fight should not be tarred by human rights violations... the innocent are protected," he said.

Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz yesterday announced the government will provide P1.5 billion for on-base housing for soldiers.

The amount, to come from the earnings of the Malampaya natural gas project, will be deposited "in the next few days" in the modernization trust fund of the AFP, Cruz announced at the 108th anniversary celebrations of the Philippine Navy.

He said the money will be used to build some 3,000 housing units. The lack of military housing has been an issue in several coup attempts.

With reports from Norman Bordinador and Fe B. Zamora



REP. SATUR OCAMPO and wife Carolina Malay at airport immigration window.

JESS YUSON

Satur leaves after airport flap

By Nikko Dizon

AFTER MANY FRUSTRATING moments at the airport when he believed government rancor would force him to miss his flight, Bayan Muna partylist Rep. Satur Ocampo was able to take a Lufthansa plane for Geneva three minutes before take-off last night.

He his wife, Carolina Malay, were the last passengers to climb on board.

Ocampo was all ready to leave for a week-long trip for a session of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in Geneva but was held at the Bureau of Immigration at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport on a hold departure order.

Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez had issued the order, which Immigration received last Thursday, citing the rebellion case

against Ocampo stemming from the foiled coup attempt last February.

Ocampo was held at the Naia despite his protestations that a court order issued by Regional Trial Court (RTC) Judge Reinto Quilala last June 20 allowed him to travel to Geneva and thereafter to Belgium for a meeting of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, and frenzied telephone calls to Gonzalez and Immigration Commissioner Alipio Fernandez.

It took a call to Presidential Chief of Staff Michael Defensor before Ocampo was finally allowed to leave.

"We called up Mike Defensor and told him that we will be forced to call the UN and the IPU about the violation of the human rights of Satur Ocampo," Neri Colmenares, Ocampo's lawyer, said.

He said that Ocampo also spoke with Gonzalez on a mobile phone, assuring him he would return to the country.

Colmenares said that Gonzalez told Ocampo not to speak against the Philippines while in Geneva.

"Ka Satur told him that he would never speak against the country but speaking against the government is another matter," Colmenares said.

Gonzalez also asked Ocampo to issue a statement to the BI that he would return to the country on June 30, the lawyer said, adding that Ocampo would no longer go to Brussels, Belgium.

Prior to checking in for his flight, Ocampo told reporters that Gonzalez's issuance of a hold departure already consisted a "personal persecution."

Driving dividends.

- The One-Year Deferred Payment Plan starts with a 50% downpayment.
- The first monthly payment follows only after one year or on the 13th month.
- Monthly payments can be extended up to 2 years.

This innovative ownership solution is available on all brand new BMW Models.

BMW Philippines

www.bmw.com.ph



See posters for more details. Per OTI-MCR Permit No. 3148, Series of 2004.



Autohaus BMW 184 E. Rodriguez Jr. Avenue, Liloa, Luzon City • Tel. (042) 6380734 • Fax (042) 4380419 • Prestige Cars BMW 2324 Pasong Tamo Extension, Makati City • Tel. (02) 8928121 to 29 • Fax (02) 8167325 • Autozentrum BMW Munding Business Park, Commerce Avenue, Alabang, Muntinlupa Tel. (02) 772621 to 24 Fax (02) 772625 • Klassik BMW 20 G. Aquino Avenue, Quezon City • Tel. (02) 7816688 • Fax (02) 7314433 • Premier Cars BMW 401C Building, San Fernando-Diagon Highway, City of San Fernando, Pangasinan • Tel. (045) 9637777 • Fax (045) 9633355 • Performance Auto BMW Maguigay St. cor. P. Burgos St., Cebu City • Tel. (032) 2563491 • Fax (032) 2563492

GMA's 5-man delegation includes solons' wives

By Gil Cabacungan Jr.

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO'S DELEGATION in the one-week swing to Italy, the Vatican and Spain has been bloated to 55 members by an unusually large group of lawmakers, some of whom will even bring along their spouses.

Based on the official delegation list submitted by Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita, more than 60 percent of the delegation is made up of senators (who number two), congressmen (20), their spouses (5), governors (7) and a city mayor.

The government is expected to shoulder all the delegation's hotel and travel expenses, including pocket money for the trip. The delegation has been booked at the posh St. Regis Grand Hotel in Rome and the Ritz Hotel in Madrid.

During the trip, scheduled from June 24 to July 2, the President is expected to meet with Pope Benedict XVI, Italian President Giorgio Napolitano, King Juan Carlos I and Queen Sofia of Spain and Spanish President Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero.

Aside from First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo, members of the First Family that are to join the trip are the President's daughter, Evangelina Lourdes (Luli), her son Diosdado (Dato) and his wife Maria Victoria Celina, and her granddaughter, Eva Victoria.

Cabinet officials in the party are Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas, Defense Secretary Avelino J. Cruz, Jr., Trade and Industry Secretary Peter Favila, Tourism Secretary Joseph Ace Durano, Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye, National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales, and Group Head for Government Mass Media Cerge Remonde.

Only Romulo among the Palace honchos is bringing along his wife, Lovely Rosa.

Government executives in the list are Deputy Executive Secretary Susana D Vargas, Presidential Protocol Chief Marciano Paynor Jr., National Historical Institute chair Lamber to Ocampo, Overseas Workers Welfare Administration Administrator Marianito D. Roque, and Public Works Undersecretary Florante Soriquez.

The senators on the trip are Edgardo Angara and Miriam-Defensor Santiago. Chief Justice Artemio Panganiban is also listed in the delegation, along with Philippine Ambassador to Spain Joseph D. Bernardo.

Local government officials with the team are Bohol Gov. Enrico B. Aumentado, Sarangani Gov. Miguel Rene Dominguez, Samar Gov. Ben Evardone, Agusan del Sur Gov. Adolph Edward Plaza, Camarines Sur Gov. Luis Raymund Villafuerte Jr., Bulacan Gov. Josephine dela Cruz, Sultan Kudarat Gov. Pax Mangudadatu and Manila City Mayor Lito Atienza.

The congressmen and their spouses on the trip are Isabela Rep. Rodolfo Albano, Pangasinana Rep. Jesus Reynaldo Aquino, Nueva Ecija Rep. Rodolfo Antonino, Iloilo Rep. Arthur Defensor, Marikina City Rep. Del De Guzman, Zamboanga del Norte Rep. Cecilia Jalosjos-Carreon, Laguna Rep. Ullan Joaquin, Batangas Rep. Hermilando I. Mandanas, Southern Leyte Rep. Francis Nepomuceno, Rep. Herminia Ramiro, Batangas Rep. Victoria Reyes, Masbate Rep. Rizalina Seachon-Lanete, Bulacan Rep. Lorna Silverio, Quezon Rep. Danny Suarez, Quezon City Rep. Mary Ann Susano, North Cotabato Rep. Emmylou Talino Santos, Leyte Rep. Eduardo Veloso, Occidental Mindoro Rep. Amelita Villalosa, Bukidnon Rep. Juan Miguel Zubiri, Rosa Marina Antonio, Regina Nepomuceno, Rodrigo Reyes, Joshur Judd Lanete, and Audrey Zubiri.

UN HABITAT FORUM

Noli showcases NorthRail project

By Cynthia D. Balana

VICE PRESIDENT NOLI DE CASTRO yesterday described the North Rail resettlement project as "one of the biggest development-triggered movement of families in recent Philippine history" and "a test of development in a democracy."

Speaking at the World Urban Forum 3 organized by the UN Habitat on the topic, "Implementing Millennium Development Goal (MDG) Target 7/11 - Cities Without Slums Indicator in Asian Countries" in Vancouver, Canada, De Castro lauded the relocation component of the ongoing rail linkage project and called it a success.

De Castro, who chairs the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC), said the government was determined to make the resettlement program work despite shortcomings in the housing sector and criticism from various groups.

He said that there was more at stake in the project than just the putting up of a railroad system or new housing communities.

"We want to prove that development can be pursued within the democratic system established by people power. We want to show that people power... is just as potent in building communities and improving the lives of the masses," he said.

De Castro said the NorthRail resettlement project was a test case for the government's commitment to the good urban governance campaign which it launched in 2000 in partnership with the UN Habitat, civil society and community-based associations.

He also called it "one of the country's contributions to the attainment of MDGs to improve the lives of slum dwellers in the world."

The Vice President said three "major themes"—incremental



DE CASTRO

development, beneficiary-led formulation of the resettlement plans and policies, and collaboration at both the national and local levels—were behind the success of the relocation project.

He stressed the importance of communicating directly with affected families to understand their needs and concerns.

"I talked to them personally and listened to them—not to their leaders, not to those who profess to represent their interests, but to the affected families down there at the railroad tracks... I simply had to go to the people and be a field-worker myself," he said.

He said various policies had been crafted in consultation with the families themselves, among them the choice of resettlement sites, the manner of distributing housing materials assistance and the cost of the benefits package to be amortized by beneficiaries for 30 years.

He said that the NorthRail story was far from over and that much had to be done, particularly in building capacities at the grassroots level.

"If there is one area where external assistance would be greatly appreciated, it would be in interventions that promote cultural and social development among the beneficiary families," De Castro said.

Boy seized from classroom

COTABATO CITY—MASKED gunmen barged into an elementary school Friday and snatched an 11-year-old boy right in front of his classmates and teachers, officials said.

Parang Mayor Talib Abo identified the victim as Kurt Degracia, whose family owns several hardware stores in Barangay Landasan and Poblacion Parang, Maguindanao.

Citing reports from school authorities, Abo said three gunmen in ski masks entered the victim's classroom at Landasan Central Pilot Elementary School around 2 p.m. Friday.

The kidnappers pointed their guns at the boy's teacher and other school personnel who rushed to

the scene, Abo told the INQUIRER. The kidnappers then forced the boy into a waiting vehicle with government license plate SBC-603 and sped toward North Cotabato.

The vehicle was later found abandoned and partly burned in Barangay Manuagan, Pigcawayan, Cotabato, according to Abo.

Quoting police reports, Abo said witnesses had reported that the car's driver boarded a Weena Bus bound for this city while the two other gunmen hailed a passenger L300 van, also bound for this city, but there was no mention of the boy.

Abo said it was possible the boy was kidnapped for ransom.

Edwin Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau

WHEN YOU'VE HAD A HEAVY WEEK...

BANK-TO-GO

ON WEEKENDS

EXPRESS BANKING CENTER

OPEN THURSDAY TO MONDAY 11AM TO 7PM

Even after regular office hours and on weekends you can now enjoy fast banking service in over 100 BPI Express Banking Centers in malls and other frequently-visited locations.

- Open a Deposit Account and get your ATM card in 20 minutes
- Apply for an Auto or Housing Loan • Enroll in Bills Payment
- Apply for a BPI Credit Card • Get an Express Cash Card while you wait

BPI EXPRESS BANKING CENTER

Member of the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation
Maximum Deposit Insurance for Each Depositor P 250,000

Narito na ang hit movie of the year!

PACQUIAO THE MOVIE

JERICO ROSALES

BEA ALONZO

DIRECTED BY JOEL C. LAMANGAN

JUNE 21, 2006

JOIN THE **MONEY PAKYAW** TEXT PROMO

Get a chance to win:

P50,000 cash
in the Grand Draw

PARA MAKASALI:

Text **MPMOVIE** to **2366**
to subscribe to daily movie calendar logo with inspirational quotes. P2.50/text.

OR

Text **LIPAD** to **2366**

to get the movie theme song "Lipad ng Pangarap" by Gary Valenciano and a free ringtone upon first subscription to weekly tones. P15/line

• **DAILY DRAW:**

Be one of three winners of a Manny Pacquiao autographed Mano A Mano cap, t-shirt or pair of boxing gloves plus P500 worth load!



Watch Mano A Mano live from your Smart cellphone via 3G on July 21

Step 1: Activate your 3G service by texting MP 3G to 2366 or 2366 to 2366

Step 2: These settings will be sent to you from 2366. Save the settings and May 11 12:00 AM will be activated

Step 3: Visit the SMART 3G portal: <http://www.smart3g.com.ph> or 2366 on the SMART 3G site or the SMART applet

Step 4: Click AND CASH

Step 5: Click Pacquiao Game Night

Step 6: Click Pacquiao Game Night

Step 7: Click Pacquiao Game Night

Step 8: Click Pacquiao Game Night

Step 9: Click Pacquiao Game Night

Step 10: Click Pacquiao Game Night

Step 11: Click Pacquiao Game Night

Step 12: Click Pacquiao Game Night

Step 13: Click Pacquiao Game Night

Step 14: Click Pacquiao Game Night

Step 15: Click Pacquiao Game Night

Step 16: Click Pacquiao Game Night

Step 17: Click Pacquiao Game Night

Step 18: Click Pacquiao Game Night

Step 19: Click Pacquiao Game Night

Step 20: Click Pacquiao Game Night



Logos: Pacquiao, Pacquiao, Pacquiao

Picture Messages: Pacquiao, Pacquiao, Pacquiao

Para sa mga tunay na fan ni Pacman, get the latest text updates mula mismo kay Manny. Text **PACMAN** to **326**

* not included in the promo

SMART

Programa nangyayari Agosto 8, 2006

Para 1111 Pac & Pacman: P200, Series 1 of 2006

Now, it's Gloria vs thinking class

From page A1

Macapagal-Arroyo out of office, National Artist for Literature Bienvenido Lumbera said on Thursday.

"In general, I think the intellectuals that I know are clearly against, vocally against GMA," Lumbera said at the launching of a citizen's initiative to impeach Ms Arroyo at Club Filipino in Greenhills, San Juan.

He said many of them would work to personally convince congressmen to support the new impeachment complaint to be filed on Monday before the House of Representatives.

The 74-year-old national artist said he himself would try to convince his brother-in-law, House Majority Leader Prospero Nograles, about the need to let the impeachment process proceed.

"We usually don't talk about politics but this time, (it's going to be different)," Lumbera said.

He said that the abuses of the administration, like the killings of journalists and political activists, had roused the passions of intellectuals and set them against the Arroyo administration.

Embrace the truth

House Minority Leader Francis Escudero earlier said that the participation of private individuals and organizations in the campaign to impeach Ms Arroyo would give it an added boost in getting the required 79 votes to have the President impeached in the House.

"Mrs. Arroyo has led the way in substituting confusion for clarity, replacing faith in our people with cynicism towards their democratic demands, and demonstrating hostility rather than dedication to the rule of law," said artist Leah Navarro.

"[Ms Arroyo] stop running, and hiding, from your people ... embrace the truth," she added.

Lumbera said that while some of the public might be wary of joining political rallies against the President, this did not mean they want Ms Arroyo to stay.

"The rallies and the people attending rallies are getting fewer, but if you talk to them, you'll find out that they really want change," Lumbera said.

Not only artists

"The rallies, last year, fizzled out and failed. This is the chance to erase all that and replace it with hope," he added.

But it was not just artists and intellectuals who were active in the campaign to impeach the President.

Armando Albarillo, one of the lead complainants in the impeachment case to be filed, blames the Arroyo ad-

Absence of heart

NOW IT CAN BE TOLD.

Former Solicitor General Alfredo Benipayo could have bungled his defense before the Supreme Court of Executive Order No. 464, which barred all Cabinet officials, government executives and uniformed officers from appearing in congressional hearings without the President's consent, Presidential Proclamation No. 1017, which placed the country in a state of emergency, and the Calibrated Pre-emptive Response policy on street protestors.

"His heart wasn't in it," said Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez, describing Benipayo as "the solicitor general who lost our battles."

Gonzalez said it might have been hard for Benipayo to go against his conscience and conviction, confirming suspicions that Benipayo was eased out of government for allegedly failing to make a good defense on controversial issues EO 464, PP 1017 and the CPR policy before the Supreme Court.

"When he was defending our po-

sition ... that must have been a very haphazard defense because his heart was not in it," Gonzalez said of Benipayo's argument for the three measures.

Consequently, the Supreme Court declared PP 1017 as unconstitutional. It also qualified EO 464, allowing government officials to attend congressional inquiries without the President's permission, but not so when for the Senate question hour. On the CPR policy, the high tribunal ruled: no permit, no rally.

Gonzalez said that Benipayo was "better out of government" because "now he was free to express his true sentiments."

The fact that "we changed him was the right thing to do," Gonzalez added. Benipayo was "defending [the issues] but not with his full enthusiasm."

Benipayo resigned in March at the height of defending the three measures in the high court, saying he wanted to return to private practice. He has since joined the anti-Charter change group, One Voice.

ministration for the political killing of both his parents in Oriental Mindoro.

"We who are victims of crimes and inhumanity have suffered greatly. We're sure that the impeachment complaint will be filed but we don't know if we'll get the votes," Albarillo said.

"But as [part of] organizations that are being killed by the Arroyo administration, we will not stop even if more of us die tomorrow until the dictator Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo is removed from power," he added.

Add to country's woes

A second impeachment case against the President would only add to the country's miseries, said Lipa Archbishop Ramon Arguelles, a known critic of Ms Arroyo at the height of last year's "Hello Garci" controversy.

Those seeking to unseat Ms Arroyo were probably driven by their political ambition to take over, Arguelles said.

"All this will just add to the woes of the country," he told reporters in Filipino. "Corruption will just change hands."

Arguelles noted that the move to oust Ms Arroyo for allegedly stealing votes in the 2004 elections was met with apathy.

"Many people are saying that there are many things that have to be corrected in the [Arroyo] government. But how come a great majority of the people are apathetic?" he said.

While the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) had earlier encouraged the faithful to settle the political crisis through constitutional means, Arguelles said he and his fellow bishops were not endorsing impeachment.

"Constitutional means can be used unconstitutionally when used to serve the interest of some people who would like to take over without thinking of the good of the majority," he said. "They are just trying to get into power."

Asked what the political opposition should do, the prelate advised enemies of Ms Arroyo to go beyond simply trying to "topple the government."

"You know, people power is very good," Arguelles said, referring to the two peaceful revolts that unseated strongman Ferdinand E. Marcos in 1986 and Joseph Estrada in 2001. "But if it is manipulated, it's no longer people power."

He also cautioned against the Malacañang-backed people's initiative seeking to change the 1987 Constitution.

Critics said the initiative was meant to allow Ms Arroyo to finish her term in 2010 while maintaining political clout in the planned parliamentary system of government.

"The people's initiative should be the initiative of the people and not of some people who have a hidden agenda," Arguelles said.

Nothing but good wishes from GMA foes

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

THIS TIME, NOTHING BUT WELL-WISHES and prayers from her political foes. One even thought of sending her flowers, too.

As President Macapagal-Arroyo lay in a hospital bed, Senate leaders and opposition senators—who have all questioned the legitimacy of her government and demanded her resignation—yesterday set aside politics and wished her speedy recovery from the viral infection that downed her.

Senate President Franklin Drilon said he had been busy hosting an international gathering of Liberals and Democrats from Asia, Europe and North America when he heard of Ms Arroyo's condition on Thursday night.

"Certainly all of us are concerned about her health and we wish her well," Drilon said in a phone interview.

Opposition Sen. Panfilo "Ping" Lacson said he remembered the case of Ms Arroyo's presidential rivals, Raul Roco and Fernando Poe Jr., who died of prostate cancer and massive stroke, respectively, in the same hospital.

"The case of Roco and FPJ occurred to me and I prayed that *huwag namang umabot sa ganon* (it won't happen to her). My first reaction was I prayed that *huwag naman po sana* (don't let it happen, please). Not this way," Lacson said.

The sin, not the sinner

While he wants Ms Arroyo out of Malacañang, Lacson said that being a Christian got the better of him.

"I remember what our parish priest in Imus said a long time ago: Hate the sin, not the sinner. So this is beyond politics. We should all pray for her," said Lacson, who also ran unsuccessfully against Ms Arroyo in the 2004 election and who had been a fierce critic of her and her husband, Jose Miguel.

Senate Majority Leader Francis Pangilinan said his initial reaction was that the past several months had been "extremely stressful" for Ms Arroyo and this had probably taken a toll on her health.

"Despite our political differences, I pray for her speedy recovery," Pangilinan said.

Pangilinan said Ms Arroyo's hospitalization was "mentioned in passing" during the 30-nation international conference and one of the foreign parliamentarians asked about it.

Probably overworked

"I said it was probably fatigue from all the work (she has been doing)," Pangilinan said.

Sen. Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada said he also prayed for Ms Arroyo and monitored the news about her even if he was in Baguio City.

"I wish her well and I hope she is discharged from the hospital soon so she can get back to work," said the opposition senator, who blames Ms Arroyo for the ousting of his father, detained former President Joseph Estrada.

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. was in Los Angeles, California, when he heard the news. "I pray she overcomes it," he said.

Irresistible wish

Pimentel could not resist reiterating his wish for Ms Arroyo to disappear from the political scene: "But I think she's probably overworked. She can resign with a clear conscience and claim 'ill-health'."

Lacson said the circumstances of Ms Arroyo's hospitalization were initially mysterious, but said there should be no more speculation after her doctors said it was just a case of acute infectious diarrhea.

Undelivered flowers

"We have no choice but to believe the doctors. They will probably not lie because once they issue a medical bulletin, they are bound by medical ethics," Lacson said.

Jinggoy Estrada said he even thought of sending Ms Arroyo a bouquet of flowers. "Kaya lang baka hindi tanggapin (But it might not be accepted)," he quipped.

Asked if he would send flowers, Lacson laughed and said: "Ah, we will not go too far."

Step-sis tells how fun trip became a nightmare

From page A1

Franco said she, Nicole and another 12-year-old sister were invited for a vacation in Subic on Oct. 30 by a family friend, US Navy Petty Officer Christopher Mills and another US soldier, Carlos Ocasio.

The sisters had come to know the servicemen who were regulars in their family "cantina" in the Armed Forces Southern Command (Southcom) base in Zamboanga City.

Treated like sons

Franco said the two US soldiers got to know her stepmother, Nicole's mother, as they came to the canteen at least four times a month since first arriving in Zamboanga in July 2005.

"She treated them as her own sons and as family friends and she trusted them," said Franco, explaining why her stepmother allowed them to accept a second invitation from the Americans.

Testifying on direct examination by Ursua, Franco said the sisters had begged off a first invitation from the soldiers in September as they were busy helping out in the canteen. It was Nicole who managed the canteen.

The arrangement was for the sisters to pay for their fare to Subic while the soldiers would take care of accommodations.

On Oct. 30, the three sisters flew to Manila from Zamboanga for the first leg of their Subic getaway. Their two Manila-based brothers then drove them to Olongapo City, where Ocasio had arranged for them to be billeted at the Legenda Hotel.

Not to set bad example

The soldier changed his mind, however, and brought the five siblings to the Grand Leisure Hotel instead. Asked why, Franco said "because Ocasio did not want to set a bad example for [my 12-year-old sister] because he said there were many Americans roaming around naked" at the Legenda where the two soldiers were billeted.

On Nov. 1, Mills who was with another soldier Franco knew only as Garcia took the sisters to the casino where they played for about an hour. At around 8:30 p.m., they went to the Neptune Club.

There Franco said she and Nicole tasted drinks they had not heard of before: vodka, sprite, B52 and Singapore sling.

She said that every time she and Nicole finished a drink, they felt dizzy.

"[Nicole] drank half a pitcher of Bullfrog. She drank it straight because she was being cheered by three Americans surrounding her," said Franco.

3rd dance with Smith

She testified that Nicole was at the dance floor three times: first with an American, the second time with her and Mills, and the third time with the same American she had danced with the first time whom she later identified in court as Smith, the accused.

The witness recalled, almost minute by minute, her last images of Nicole after she had her third dance with Smith.

"She was not dancing lewdly," she replied when Ursua asked her to describe

Nicole's behavior.

The lawyer brought it up apparently to counter various sworn statements earlier entered into the record by the defense lawyers claiming that Nicole was seen "dirty dancing" with an American that night.

Twice, Nicole slipped in and out of Franco's sight from where the latter sat. Each time Nicole reappeared and passed by her sister without saying a word. She was "pasuray-suray" (weaving about)," Franco said.

Finally, when she was about to lose Nicole again, "I called out to her but she just went ahead. Then I stood up and ran after her."

Franco said she had to grab Nicole by her shoulders just to make her "face me." She then told her they must return to their hotel because Mills seemed to have left them.

(In a previous hearing, Mills said he left the bar for about 30 to 45 minutes to help his buddy, Garcia, sort out a problem with a shore patrol officer.)

Letting go of hand

"She said nothing. I held her hand, and we started walking out of the Neptune Club," Franco added.

They had already gone past Neptune's pathway when "I let go of her hand," Franco said she started walking faster and "I was thinking she was following me."

Asked why she went a few steps ahead, Franco gave one of her most emotionally charged replies: "Because I thought if I would walk faster, she would catch up. That's how we've been as sisters."

Franco then encountered Mills and Garcia at the corner of Waterfront and Taft Roads. That's when she lost sight of Nicole. She and Mills decided to return to the bar, thinking Nicole might have returned.

It was the beginning of a long search. They again surveyed the Neptune's dance floor, ladies' toilet, and karaoke rooms, then looked for Nicole in two other bars.

Searching

Upon Mills' advice, an already worried Franco returned to her hotel. Restless, she had her 12-year-old sister accompany her back to Neptune for another search.

Before reaching the bar, she got a call from Mills saying the bar's security guard had seen a Filipino being "carried to a van."

At that point, she said she was afraid that "something bad" had happened.

Another round of search in the two other bars ensued, before Franco and her adolescent sister decided to return to the hotel.

Franco had slept briefly when the phone rang at around 2 a.m. It was the hotel manager asking her to go down.

She found Nicole, seated just outside the lobby, with an SBMA policeman.

"I cried in front of her, asking her where she'd been. She was in a state of shock," a weeping Franco said.

At this point, the judge asked if she could still go on. It was not clear if she answered, but Pozon then announced the adjournment, with the defense counsels posing no objection.

JOIN THE PUBLIC AUCTION OF



TRUCKS • HEAVY EQUIPMENT • MISC. ITEMS

Auction Dates:
June 30 - July 3, 2006
STARTS AT 8:30 A.M. SHARP

Inspection Dates:
June 23 - 29, 2006
STARTS AT 8:30 A.M. SHARP



1 of 25 Bulldozers



1 of 60 Excavators



1 of 30 Wheel Loaders



1 of 12 Motor Graders



1 of 80 Excavators



1 of 80 Dropside Cargos



1 of 80 Dropside Cargos



1 of 40 Wing Vans



1 of 95 Closed Vans



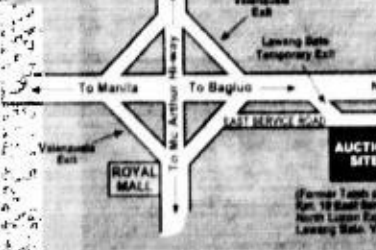
1 of 5 Transit Mixers



1 of 95 Closed Vans



1 of 10 Tanker Trucks



For inquiries please call:
(02)984-6741 • (02)984-6753 • (02)984-0215/16

Trucks & Equipment Financing available thru:
ORIX METRO Leasing & Finance Corp. • Tel (02) 858-8888

Email us: info@auctionmalinta.com • Visit our website: www.auctionmalinta.com

Old budget gives GMA blank check—Drilon

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

SENATE PRESIDENT FRANKLIN Drilon has conceded that the failure of Congress to approve the 2006 national budget has given President Macapagal-Arroyo a blank check to spend public money according to her wishes.

Drilon was reacting to news reports that the President can realign at least P48 billion worth of pork barrel funds under the reenacted P907.56 billion due to Congress' failure to approve the P1.05 trillion national budget for this year.

"This is precisely the difficulty of having a reenacted budget. There is so much discretion given to the President," Drilon said.

Drilon said Congress, which supposedly had the "power over the purse" under the Constitution, can only hope that the Commission on Audit will make sure the realigned funds are properly spent.

"We are already in the middle of the year. By constitutional mandate, the President is supposed to submit the budget for 2007 between July 24 and Aug. 24. We start working on

that when we come back. There is no more sense in having the budget for 2006. We have only five months to go for the year," Drilon said.

The committee deliberations ended in a deadlock when Congress adjourned on June 8.

Senate Majority Leader Francis Pangilinan said he was still hoping Malacañang and the Senate could reach a middle ground in the budget stalemate.

The Senate cut the Malacañang budget approved by the House by P64 billion, mostly funds deemed as pork barrel for the President. Ms Arroyo took an all-or-nothing stance, forcing a deadlock.

"We're still hoping the executive department will have a change of heart so that we can find a middle ground. The Senate has always been open to the realignment of some of the budget cuts. But if the Palace will stick to its position—take it or leave it—we cannot have a breakthrough," Pangilinan said.

Pangilinan said the Senate would exercise its oversight functions to monitor the disbursement of the funds that the President realigned to

projects other than that provided for under the budget act.

Tarlac Rep. Jesli Lapus, chair of the House committee on ways and means, expressed confidence in Ms Arroyo disbursement of funds.

"The President has already shown sound discretion in allotting enough funds for government's priorities like counter-insurgency and anti-graft and corruption drives," he said. These programs had been hobbled by lack of funds, he said.

Lapus expressed confidence that the President could manage properly a reenacted budget that reportedly would give her full discretion on how to spend P21 billion in non-repeating projects and P27.7 billion in interest savings from the 2005 budget.

"The President knows government would be shortchanging our people if the funds which we have raised from new taxes and prudent fund management of the Department of Budget and Management will not be used this year for basic services such as health, education, food security and infrastructure," said Lapus.

House posts P190-M savings

By Philip C. Tubeza

FOLLOWING AUSTERITY AND cost-cutting measures, the House of Representatives posted an unprecedented P190 million in savings last year, Speaker Jose de Venecia said yesterday.

De Venecia said the savings came after President Macapagal-Arroyo urged all government agencies to implement austerity measures due to the huge budget deficit.

He added that this was the second time that the House successfully reduced costs "to set an example for other government agencies" and the amount was also higher than the P66 million savings it posted in 2004.

"This amount is significant because no other government agency has performed as prudently. This is

our collective response to the President's repeated appeals for fiscal discipline," de Venecia said.

He added that the House realized the savings "through a program of austerity, cost-cutting and disciplined financial management."

During a meeting in Malacañang on Thursday, the President warmly congratulated De Venecia and the entire House and its leadership for the savings.

House computerization

De Venecia was accompanied by Rep. Robert Ace Barbers, chair of the House committee on appropriations; Deputy Minority Leader Agapito "Butz" Aquino, and Secretary General Roberto Nazareno.

De Venecia told Ms Arroyo the House would allocate P100 million of the savings for the construction

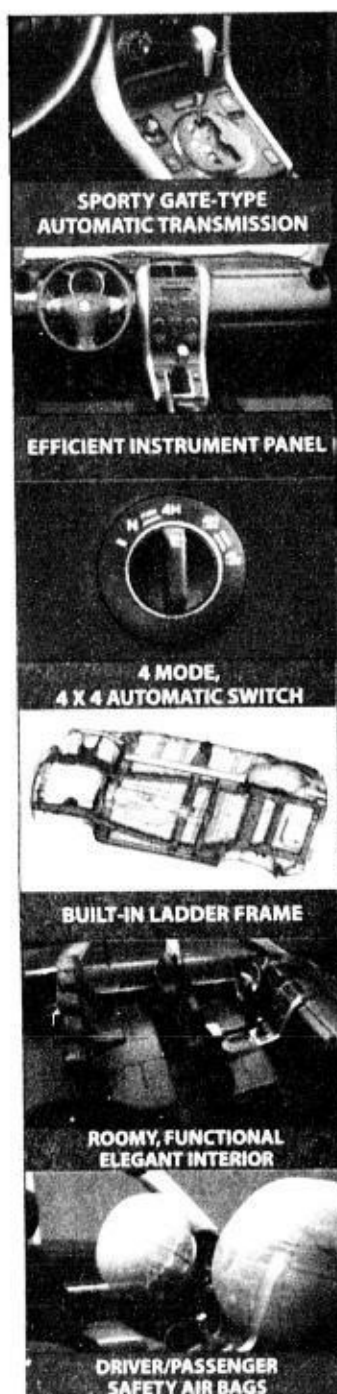
of a new building in the Batasan Complex to accommodate the expanded membership of the lower chamber and their support staff.

He said the rest of the savings would be used to finance the full computerization of House operations under his overall program to modernize the legislature and bring it to the digital age.

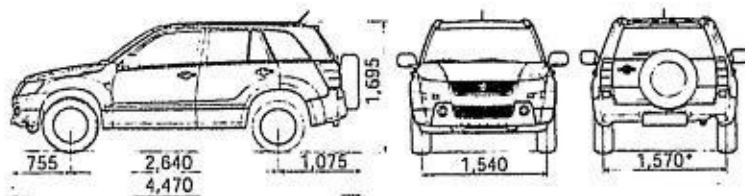
De Venecia credited former Budget Secretary Romulo Neri, now director-general for economic planning, and former House Appropriations Committee Chair Rolando Andaya Jr., now Budget Secretary, with the House's prudent spending.

He said the House computerization program as planned would cover all House members and include a digital link to the plenary hall and their congressional districts.

Built for this rough, rugged, wonderful world.



ALL-NEW SUZUKI
GRAND VITARA



THE GRANDEST SUV, ALL-NEW GRAND VITARA!

Built for both on-road and off-road use, this new generation Suzuki Grand Vitara packs power as well as prestige, as its 2.0 liter engine is engineered to maximize cost performance with its smooth and quiet response. Its 4-mode 4 x 4 powers all four wheels at all times for outstanding performance on and off-road. The all-new Grand Vitara is also built for extreme durability and safety with a Built-in Ladder frame that reinforces its compact and rugged body. And, with fully independent suspension, you get smoother, more responsive power over the road or off.



METRO MANILA
SUZUKI AUTO COMMONWEALTH
43 Commonwealth Avenue,
Quezon City
851-2201 to 10
SUZUKI AUTO EDSA
EDSA cor. Madison St.
Mandaluyong City
634-3451 to 57

SUZUKI AUTO KALOOKAN
198 EDSA cor. Tandang Sora St.,
Kalookan City
365-9093 / 365-9098 / 365-3011 / 365-7798
SUZUKI AUTO MAKATI
G / F Smith Bldg., 2294
Don Chino Rocas Ave. Ext., Makati City
618-4097 / 610-1736 / 610-1737

SUZUKI AUTO QUEZON AVE.
1142 Quezon Avenue
Quezon City
374-39-11 / 411-27-20
SUZUKI AUTO SHAW
411 Shaw Boulevard,
Mandaluyong City
718-1834 to 35

PROVINCIAL
SUZUKI AUTO BACOLOD
Minor Bldg., Araneta St.,
Singapang Barcolod City
(034) 435-0288
SUZUKI AUTO CABANATUAN
Mahurika Highway, Cabanatuan City
(044) 463-5248 / 463-0089

SUZUKI AUTO CAGAYAN DE ORO
Mindanao Motor Compound Corrales Ave.,
Cagayan de Oro City
(088) 227-28357
SUZUKI AUTO CEBU
CDO Foodsphere Bldg.,
A. S. Fortuna St., Barilad, Mandaue City
(032) 345-8893 / (032) 345-0507

SUZUKI AUTO DAGUPAN
National Highway, Ambanao,
Calsiao, Pangasinan
(075) 517-17-17 / 8888 / 9999
SUZUKI AUTO DAVAO
Bo Pampanga, Sasa,
Davao City
(082) 233-1140 / 234-0380

SUZUKI AUTO ILOILO
Luna St., Lapaz, Iloilo City
(033) 320-7020
SUZUKI AUTO LEGASPI
408 Rizal St., Cabangan,
Legaspi City
(054) 472-3577 to 79 / 472-3659

SUZUKI AUTO PAMPANGA
Olongapo-Gapan Road
City of San Fernando,
Pampanga
(045) 880-5971 / (045) 861-3573

SUZUKI AUTO ZAMBOANGA
Veterans Ave. cor. Tomas
Claudio St., Zamboanga City
(082) 981-1492 / 991-1126

www.suzuki.com.ph

May Sundae delivery na!

DIAL

8-7000

Jollibee Delivery

Chocolate Sundae

Available in Metro Manila only

GMA didn't have a bite at Osteria 88

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO didn't touch her food in the tony Franco-Italian restaurant owned by a nephew of Interior and Local Government Secretary Ronaldo Puno where she was taken ill Thursday night.

Osteria 88 executive chef Rae Pedrosa said he personally served the President's food and she did not touch it—not the pan seared goose liver nor the caesar's salad. (Presidential Chief of Staff Michael Defensor claimed the President had salad at the restaurant before she complained of stomach pains).

55 party guests

"The President did not partake of any food at all at the restaurant as she was already not feeling well per her close-in personnel. It is just incidental that her last social for the day was for the First Gentleman's birthday," Pedrosa said.

There were 55 members in the President's party, which is the full seating capacity of the restaurant, Pedrosa said. (The First Gentleman's pre-birthday bash caused heavy traffic along Tomas Morato as police blocked off the area.)

It was the first time for the President to visit the restaurant but First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo had been in the fine-dining restaurant on four other occasions.

No oysters

"We did not take any chance with the safety and handling of the various cooked entrees such as salmon steak and osso buco tender beef. Contrary to reports, there were no raw food or oysters served."

Pedrosa argued that if the food was "rejectable," its ill effects would not have been immediate but would have taken four to six hours. "Other guests should have developed upset stomachs (just like the President) at the same time," said Pedrosa.

Pedrosa who noted that the President has security food tasters who should have tried the food before they were served.

Pedrosa said Osteria 88 was owned by Puno Enterpriser of Dondi Puno who last year took control of the Osteria Italia restaurant ran by actress Ara Mina for three years.

In December 2005, the restaurant opened as a members-only resto with 88 "gourmet members" forking out P120,000 (consumable for six months) for the privilege to dig into the restaurant's prime continental cuisine from Black Angus Salpicado to Wagyu beef rib eye to baked Norwegian salmon fillet.

Food and privacy

"Our members come here for the food and the privacy," said Pedrosa who noted that a typical meal in Osteria 88 would cost between P800 and P1,000 per person. "We're one of the best in fine dining. If we're a hotel, we'd



FINALLY FORCED TO REST, President Arroyo looks like she can hardly wait to jump out of bed and get cracking on her presidential duties.

MALACAÑANG PHOTO

be rated five-star luxury."

Pedrosa said the management decided to open the restaurant to nonmembers this month when some members complained of the

hassle of going to the restaurant whenever their relatives and friends wanted to eat there.

Pedrosa said it was too early to tell whether the bad publicity

would impact negatively on the restaurant. "I sure hope not because we really pride ourselves in our food quality and service," Pedrosa said.

GMA in charge: 'I'm fine'; leaves hospital today

From page A1

not even consider it.

"The doctors also said 'extreme stress' had lowered Ms Arroyo's resistance and made her vulnerable to infections.

"I think with all the stress she's currently having, [with her] duties and responsibilities ... there is some point in time where [there would be] a lower resistance," said Dr. Juliet Gopez Cervantes, a gastroenterologist. "[That's] probably the reason why the viral infection has developed."

Health Secretary Francisco Duque said that, as President, Ms Arroyo "has to attend to many things and this could be one reason why her resistance has gone down and made her vulnerable to mild infectious diseases," Duque told reporters.

Palace officials said Ms Arroyo's trip to Italy—where she will have an audience at the Vatican with Pope Benedict XVI—and then to Spain would still proceed, after doctors gave the green light for her to travel.

But instead of leaving tonight for Europe, as scheduled, she will leave on Sunday at 10 a.m., officials said. She will return home on July 2.

In a floral hospital gown and with a laptop in front of her, Ms Arroyo told government television and radio reporters who were allowed to enter her fourth-floor Room 4012 suite that she was "feeling fine."

Light work

She said she was just doing "light work," when asked why her laptop was on her hospital bed.

Ms Arroyo did not talk about her medical condition, saying it would be her doctors who would speak about it.

Duque said Ms Arroyo started having loose bowel movements on Thursday morning.

In an earlier medical bulletin, Cervantes and Dr. Joven Cuanang, St. Luke's medical director, said the President suffered a "bout of diarrhea and vomiting," accompanied by abdominal pain



MEDICAL BULLETIN: Reassuring announcements from left, St. Luke's Medical Director Dr. Joven Cuanang, gastroenterologist Dr. Juliet Gopez-Cervantes and Health Secretary Francisco Duque.

LYN RILLON

when she was brought to the hospital.

Full meal

They "hydrated" the President and since Thursday night, she "has been and is already comfortable."

The doctors said Ms Arroyo had acute infectious diarrhea, "secondary to a viral infection." She had also suffered a mild dehydration.

Briefing reporters last night, Cervantes said Ms Arroyo had already taken a full meal consisting of rice, meat, soup and vegetables.

"(She) is ready to be discharged (today) at her pleasure. She also can travel anytime," the hospital medical bulletin said.

Except for intravenous fluids, Cervantes said the doctors did

not give any medication to the President.

Not food poisoning

She said they were also not recommending any food restrictions but stressed that Ms Arroyo should be careful about the food she was taking.

Defensor and Duque said the possibility that the President had a case of food poisoning had not been considered following the findings of the doctors.

"We are not conducting an investigation as to what the President ate," Defensor told reporters.

"We're not considering food poisoning because the food that the President took (Thursday night) was taken by other people and they did not get sick like her," Duque said. (See related story on Page A6.)

Duque also said that viral infections were common these days and anyone was susceptible to them.

Back to cheerful self

"It is more of a viral infection," Cervantes said, adding that food poisoning was not considered by the doctors "considering the history (of her ailment) did not point to anything."

"She's back to her cheerful self," Duque said of the President.

Asked whether Ms Arroyo was fit to travel given her condition, Cervantes said "she can push through with her job anytime."

Cancelled activities

The viral ailment forced Ms Arroyo to cancel her activities yesterday and some of her appointments today.

The President was supposed to

be in Compostella Valley and Davao City yesterday. In Davao, she was to have presided over the third meeting of the Cabinet and the Regional Development Council on the government's mega-development plans.

Budget Secretary Rolando Andaya, who visited the President, also told reporters that the Chief Executive would sign the law repealing the death penalty when she leaves the hospital today.

He said when he saw Ms Arroyo yesterday she had just finished her lunch, a meal of chicken arroz caldo.

"She was in high spirits and she was smiling," Defensor said.

Pacman comes

She also received many calls and flowers from supporters and local officials who wished her well and for her immediate recovery, Defensor said.

ery, Defensor said.

He said he and Presidential Management Staff chief Arthur Yap were the ones taking the calls and queries about Ms Arroyo's condition.

Among the first visitors in the hospital were Candaba Mayor Gerry Pelayo and former Calocan City Mayor Rey Malonzo.

Yesterday's visitors also included boxing idol Manny Pacquiao.

The First Family, including First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo, was also with the President but left early in the morning yesterday.

The President's first born, Pampanga Rep. Mikey Arroyo, said the family appreciated those who had wished his mother well and prayed for her.

"I don't think the situation is a cause (for worry)," the younger Arroyo said.



IN THIS CORNER: Manny Pacquiao takes a break from his training for the "thrilla in Manila" to visit his favorite cheerleader.

ERIK ARAZAS

Infection blamed on killer work schedule

From page A1

In the first year of the Arroyo presidency, then National Anti-Poverty Commission chief Ging Delos, who has since resigned from the Cabinet, described how it was to travel with the President: "One thing we have all learned when travelling with the President is that when she does stop to have a meal, you better take the nearest seat available and start eating, because after only a few mouthfuls, she will stand up and be ready to go."

Heavy workweek

Another former Cabinet member, ex-Social Welfare Secretary Dinky Soliman, once said: "We have also learned that when there is food available, you should take it, because you never know when or where your next meal will be."

The four days prior to Thursday night when she was taken to the hospital were typical of Ms

Arroyo's work habits.

On Monday, she presided over a revenue command conference in Malacañang. She then held a news conference, witnessed the turnover of handguns purchased for the Philippine National Police and congratulated the police team that rescued a kidnap victim in Calocan City. She ended her day by attending the oath-taking of the Malacañang Press Corps.

She started her day on Tuesday very early by leading the nationwide earthquake drill held at a Marikina City school. She then went back to the Palace to preside over two meetings with her Cabinet and key economic advisers.

Birthday bash, jobs fair

On Wednesday, Ms Arroyo went to Vigan City to attend not only the birthday bash of Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson but also to inaugurate a new po-

lice station. In Malacañang, she attended the Gawad Saka awards as well as the awarding ceremony for the best peace and order councils in the country.

Last Thursday, Ms Arroyo was in Camp Aguinaldo to attend a jobs fair. She also presided over the oath-taking ceremonies for new Labor Secretary Arturo Brion and new Development Bank of the Philippines president Patricia Sto. Tomas.

Afterward, she sent off three Army battalions to rebel areas and then went to the Armed Forces Medical Center to cheer up wounded soldiers.

Love for food

She ended the day by meeting foreign diplomats making farewell calls, after which she had that fateful dinner with her husband and some Cabinet members. Soon after the dinner, she fell ill.

Her Cabinet and security officials noticed how pale she looked and strongly advised her to seek medical attention immediately.

"If you look at her history, two executive secretaries had a heart operation (former Defense Secretary Renato de Villa and Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo) and even her former Chief of Staff (and now Ambassador to Greece) Rigoberto Tiglao," Defensor said.

He said even Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita had been hospitalized.

Defensor said that Ms Arroyo had a gruelling schedule this week because she was leaving for Europe.

Standing up to GMA

"Everyone was rushing her to meet and talk (with these people) and to do this and that," Defensor said, adding that Ms Arroyo had a tendency to squeeze in as many

appointments she could for the day.

"When she sees an opening (in her schedule), she would immediately ask for another appointment to be set up," said Defensor.

For the past three months, he said those in charge of her appointments had been trying to rationalize the Presidents' work schedule.

"We all agreed to stand up to the President when she insists (on more appointments) but the past weeks we were overruled," he said.

Defensor said he himself would also sometimes feel the dumps.

Besides being overworked, Secretary Gonzalez also noted what he called Ms Arroyo's "heartly appetite."

"In all instances that I sat beside her, the President has always taken the food served to her with gusto. She is not picky with food

and she has a bigger appetite than me."

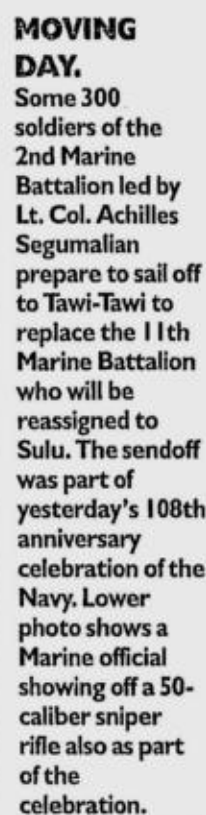
Calls at dawn

His advice to her boss? Sleep more.

"I think she does not sleep that much. She often calls us at early dawn because she wants to tell us whatever comes up on her mind before she forgets it," Gonzalez said.

But Palace media consultant Reli German is skeptical about whether her hospital confinement would make Ms Arroyo change her ways.

"I doubt if the President will slow down. She has been a hands-on, early-morning-to-midnight type of executive for the longest time," said German, who also attributed the President's health breakdown to "concerns on the affairs of the state that are probably beginning to wear her down."



Segumalian's battalion will replace the 11th Marine Battalion which will undergo retraining before being shipped back to Jolo.

Fe B. Zamora

**JUNE 12 - JULY 31, 2006**

AND MUCH, MUCH MORE !!!

THE BEST THINGS IN LIFE ARE FREE

Suki Card Program Guidelines

1. The Suki Card Program is available to all customers over 18 years of age.
2. To receive a Suki Card, customer must present receipt(s) of single or cumulative purchases over \$1,000 (w/ make any Mercury Drive Station).
3. Suki Card numbers are entitled to discounts from participating products.
4. All purchases made through the Suki Card will earn points. Every purchase of \$200.00 is equivalent to 1 point.
5. Mercury Drive Station points are redeemable in multiples of 10 points.
6. Every Suki Point is equal to \$1.00.
7. Points are present your Suki Card while making any purchases.
8. Mercury Drive reserves the right to modify or restrict the usage of the card without prior notice.

For other promos, please visit our website at www.interpdynd.com



SIX PEOPLE DIED HERE. A five-vehicle convoy of Maguindanao Gov. Andal Ampatuan was hit by a bomb hidden in a parked vehicle and detonated as soon as the governor's motorcade was passing by the new public market in Shariff Aguak. REUTERS

Bomb blasts Maguindanao governor convoy; 6 killed

From page A1

"The explosive was an improvised device. It was fitted with a timer," Del Prado said.

Norie Unas, Maguindanao provincial administrator, told the *INQUIRER* that Ampatuan was unhurt and was resting as of press time. "From all indications, the governor was the target," Unas said.

Unas declined to say who could be behind the latest attack on the governor but other sources within Ampatuan's circle said his enemies within the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) were the most likely suspects.

MILF denial

But Eid Kabalu, MILF spokesperson, denied they were responsible for the blast.

"I can honestly say that we have nothing to do with the latest attempt on the life of the governor," he said.

Kabalu also offered MILF's help to fast track the investigation. "We are ready to help if they need our help for the speedy arrest of the perpetrators once they are identified," he said.

"We're cooperating with the government to determine which group was behind the attack," said Von al-Haj, head of the MILF ceasefire panel, adding the incident was isolated and would not affect peace talks.

Gov. Zaldy Ampatuan of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) said the bomb attack against his father was a cowardly act and was aimed at sowing terror.

"It was aimed at destroying our efforts toward peace and development. But the suspects clearly failed," he said.

Targets of assassins

Andal Ampatuan Jr., another son of the governor, blamed "terrorists"



AMPATUAN: Victim 10 times over

for the attempt on his father's life. He did not elaborate.

The Ampatuans have been subjected to similar attacks in the past.

In December 2002, Mayor Saudi Ampatuan of Datu Piang town, a son of the Maguindanao governor, was killed when an improvised explosive device went off as he was walking back to his house.

A year earlier, Ampatuan survived an assassination attempt when assailants opened fire on his convoy. That same year, he survived another ambush.

Police officials have not ruled out terrorism and personal vendetta as motives for the latest attack on Ampatuan.

"We are looking at many angles. It could be terrorism, it could also be grudges, it could also be politics," said Sr. Supt. Akmad Mamalinta, director of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

"It wasn't an ambush. The bomb

was planted; it was intended (to explode there)," Mamalinta said.

Saudi Ampatuan Jr., the governor's grandson and mayor of Datu Saudi Uy Ampatuan town, said the explosion missed the governor's car which was ahead of the convoy and was about 10 meters away.

Police spokesperson Sr. Supt. Samuel Pagdilao said the national police will be sending bomb experts to Maguindanao to help identify and establish the signature of the bomb.

"Investigators should get to the bottom of this," he said.

Suspects 11

One Army officer, Col. Felipe Tabas, said there were indications the bombing was carried out by Jemaah Islamiyah, a regional network of Muslim militants linked to Osama bin Laden's al Qaeda.

But the Maguindanao governor dismissed that idea and said he suspected his attackers came from another group "considered as an enemy of the state", which he did not identify.

The Ampatuan family wields a great deal of political and economic influence.

One of the governor's sons, Zaldy, was elected in August as the governor of a five-province autonomous Muslim region in the south with backing from the national government in Manila.

Three other sons are town mayors.

Ms Arroyo's perceived support for Zaldy Ampatuan angered former Muslim rebels from the Moro National Liberation Front who had held the post of governor since signing a peace deal in 1996. *With reports from Luige A. del Puerto, Reuters, AP*

ness conflicts," Calimlim said by phone.

The office where the attack took place was located in the yard of Asia International Auctioneers along the Argonaut Highway, Calimlim said.

Trade in used vehicles

He identified the fatalities as Ric Tubig and Rommel Pineda. One of their companions, identified as Donald Garin, was seriously wounded, he added.

According to Calimlim, the two slain men had brokered for several freeport-based companies that traded used vehicles at the Freeport. It was not clear which companies they re-

cently did business with, he said.

The shooting occurred inside Tubig's office, where SBMA investigators found empty shells of Armalite and M-16 rifles.

Central Luzon probers

The exact name of Tubig's office was not immediately available.

The two fatalities died shortly after they were brought to the James L. Gordon Memorial Hospital in nearby Olongapo City.

The identities of the attackers were not known at press time.

Calimlim said investigators from the Central Luzon police had been asked to assist in the investigation.

Top PNP post a toss-up between Calderon, Razon

From page A1

extended by President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Lomibao said he and Ms Arroyo have yet to discuss his retirement, although he said his "mind is set to retire on July 5."

There are, however, strong indications that the term of Lomibao, who assumed the top PNP post on March 14, 2005, may no longer be extended.

A source told the *INQUIRER* that Malacañang has already informed the police through a letter that the President would be available for the outgoing chief's retirement honors and change of command ceremonies on July 5.

"This is to confirm the availability of Her Excellency, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, for your retirement honors and the change of command ceremonies of the PNP," said a letter from the Office of Presidential Appointments shown to the *INQUIRER*.

The Palace letter, however, did not say who would replace Lomibao.

No jockeying

Surprisingly, there has been little report of jockeying among generals for the position of Philippine National Police chief, one of the most sought-after in the government.

One ranking cop surmised that generals probably knew that the succession issue had already been decided.

By tradition, the top police post usually goes to the most senior and competent official, Lomibao told the *INQUIRER*. "Seniority has a great effect," he said.

By law, the President can choose Lomibao's successor from among the scores of one-star generals in the PNP.

Traditionally, however, the job has gone to a two-star or three-star general.

Asked if the job, once he leaves, is a toss-up between Razon and Calderon, Lomibao said: "More or less ... because they still have more than one year to go," he said.

Razon, a member of PMA Class '74, is deputy chief for operations and is the third highest PNP officer. Calderon, a member of PMA Class '73, is deputy chief for administration, and ranks No. 2 in the PNP hierarchy.

Both Razon and Calderon are three-star generals.

A PNP officer, who spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the matter, noted that while Razon got his third star ahead of Calderon, the latter occupies the second highest post.



LOMIBAO: Packing for July 5 retirement

"That already laid the groundwork for Calderon's (assumption)," said the source.

"If the President makes no announcement extending Lomibao's term, and she does not announce a successor, then by operation of law Calderon will succeed him," he said.

Related to GMA?

He added that at this time of seeming uncertainty, the President's choice "boils down to trust and confidence," meaning she will pick the official whom she trusts most.

Calderon is said to be related to the President. But he has neither confirmed nor denied it.

When Calderon was promoted to Deputy Director General on April 21, Lomibao had described him as the "chief PNP in waiting."

A Camp Crame insider said that Ms Arroyo, of course, could choose anyone she wants, even less senior officers, and withhold her decision until the very last minute. She once extended the term of at least one PNP chief.

Lomibao said he has already begun packing his things at the White House, the PNP chief's official residence in Camp Crame.

No retirement talk

"No," he said when asked if Ms Arroyo already spoke to him about retirement. "The President, until the day of retirement, is still perhaps making the decision."

Asked what he would do if Ms Arroyo urged him to extend his tenure, Lomibao said: "Maybe I will consider that one. *Saka na lang kami mag-uusap* (We'll talk about it later)."

San Beda law school drops 26 top profs seeking dean's ouster

From page A1

in the meantime."

The controversy began last school year when San Beda's rector-president, Fr. Anscar Chupungco, approved Jara's recommendation that three fourth-year students be allowed to stay despite twice failing Torts and Damages and/or Political Law Review.

Under the school's regulations, such a failure meant automatic non-readmission unless the dean, for "justifiable reasons," reversed the ruling.

The exception resting on the dean's discretion was hardly exercised, but since it was part of the school policy, Jara should have at least consulted the professors involved, Briliantes claimed.

Adversarial

"The issue could have been settled if only the dean and the rector were open to a genuine dialogue," he said. "Why didn't they talk with the professors before allowing the students to stay?"

Chupungco said dialogues had been conducted but the professors were purportedly "adversarial."

"They claim a kind of autonomy supposedly granted to them ever since—that's unacceptable," he said.

"They have the attitude of trying to run the school independent of the authority. The time has come not to tolerate this anymore."

Briliantes said hiring new professors may be unwise as they may not measure up to the effectiveness of the veterans.

"That's unfair," said Chupungco, noting that some of those who were not re-hired had been negligent in attending class and submitting grades.

"We have a new set of good professors and they have all promised to abide by the rules."

"The school's standards won't be weakened by its compassion," Delson said.

34 new profs

The 34 new faculty members, 25 of whom are San Beda alumni, include six regional trial court judges, two law school deans, and newly appointed Elections Commissioner Rene Sarmiento, according to Delson.

Delson said the administration was not completely closing the door on the 26 professors who were among the 31 petitioners in the letter demanding the resignation of the dean dated March 2.

"Perhaps, they can return when we have a new administration whose line of thinking is the same as theirs," he said. "But for Dean

Jara, he wants respect while he's the dean."

In a Feb. 21 faculty meeting, purportedly the first in Jara's six years as dean, Jara explained that he had recommended in favor of the three students because they had "good grades" and met the minimum 79 QPI in their junior year, the 31 petitioners wrote in the March 2 letter, a copy of which was furnished to the *INQUIRER*.

'Compassion'

The petitioners said they later found out that one student actually failed to meet the QPI (qualitative point index) requirement.

"With your failure to sufficiently justify your actions, we hoped that you would find in yourself the moral courage to admit a mistake," they wrote Jara. "Instead, you declared that you have no duty to explain your actions because you just exercised what you claim is your sole discretion."

Delson said the decision to keep the students was partly made out of "compassion" on the part of the Benedictine-run law school, a Catholic institution.

But he said the three students would automatically have to leave should they fail the subjects a third time.

"They were already in their fourth year and no other law school would accept them because of the required one-year residency," he said.

Last May 23, Jara issued a memorandum informing professors about the "expiration of (their) part-time semestral teaching contracts," and declaring that "all teaching positions in the College of Law are deemed vacated."

Professors like human rights lawyer Rene Saguisag complained.

"The memo sounded compatible with reprisal, a strong word, I know, against those who took a position, as principled as yours, but did not prevail," Saguisag later wrote Jara, referring to the resignation petition.

Briliantes, who had been teaching quite sparingly since 2000, said it was never the practice at San Beda to issue such a memo, more so, to identify professors as "part time."

'Abrasive'

"Maybe the reason why previous deans and previous school administrators had avoided the term 'part-time' was because they had some decency to be somehow courteous," he wrote Jara on June 5.

Saguisag said it sounded "most abrasive" to practically refer to justices, judges, and other lawyers teaching at San Beda as "contractuals."

By Tonette T. Orejas

HEAVILY ARMED MEN KILLED TWO businessmen in a shooting rampage yesterday evening inside an office at the Subic Bay Freeport, the first such violent incident in the industrial complex, an official said.

One other person was wounded in the attack that occurred at 6 p.m. in the office of one of the slain men, retired Gen. Jose Calimlim, senior deputy administrator for operations at the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority, told the *INQUIRER*.

"(Investigators are) looking at various angles, including possible busi-

SC ECHEGARAY 'ERROR'

Anti-crime crusaders want Panganiban's claim probed

By Nelson F. Flores

VOLUNTEERS AGAINST CRIME AND CORRUPTION Chair Dante Jimenez yesterday asked the Office of the Ombudsman to investigate Chief Justice Artemio Panganiban's claim that the Supreme Court may have committed "judicial error" when it imposed the death penalty on rape convict Leo Echegaray.

In a nine-page complaint, Jimenez said the Ombudsman should conduct a swift and thorough investigation against the incumbent Supreme Court justices for purposes of impeachment and against retired SC justices and RTC judge for purposes of criminal prosecution.

Jimenez said if Panganiban cannot prove his allegation that the Supreme Court committed "judicial error" in Echegaray's case, "he should be recommended for impeachment for his unbecoming conduct, for maligning the name of the institution he represents and for causing erosion of public trust and confidence on the judiciary as a whole" pursuant to Section 4 of Republic Act 6713 (Code of Conduct and Ethical Standard for public Officials and Employees).

Court records showed that the Supreme Court affirmed on June 25, 1996 the decision of the Quezon City Regional Trial Court Branch 104 imposing the death penalty on Echegaray after finding him to be either the father or stepfather of his rape victim.

"The fact the ten-year old (Baby Echegaray) referred to the accused-appellant



PANGANIBAN

as "Papa" is reason enough to conclude that accused appellant is either the father or stepfather to (Baby). Thus the act of sexual assault perpetrated by the accused on his young victim has become all the more repulsive and perverse. This law has made it inevitable under the circumstances of this case that the accused-appellant face the supreme penalty of death," the Supreme Court said in its decision in affirming Echegaray's death sentence.

Almost 10 years after the ruling, Panganiban, in a speech before the Free Legal Assistance Group, said the Supreme Court might have committed "judicial error" in the death of Echegaray saying "the complaint alleged

that the victim was the daughter of Echegaray. However, it was proven during the trial that he was not the father, stepfather or grandfather of the victim."

In his complaint, Jimenez said that if it were true as Chief Justice Panganiban claimed, then the QCRTC judge of Branch 104 who first decided the case and then the justices who concurred in the Supreme Court decision were guilty of Gross Inexcusable Negligence in failing to appreciate this fact and affirming the trial court's erroneous decision to impose the death penalty.

This is a clear violation of Sec. 3 of RA 3019 (Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act), Jimenez stressed.

"If the RTC judge in Echegaray's case indeed erred in imposing the death penalty, by all means, he should be disciplined accordingly by the SC for gross ignorance of the law and criminally charged. His ignorance has unjustly caused a loss of life," Jimenez argued.

Aside from Jimenez, the other complainants in this case are lawyer Jose Malvar Villegas Jr. of the Citizens Crime Watch, lawyer Ernesto Villagarcia of the Kapatiran Kontra Krimen and Dr. Be Calalde of the Bantay Bayan Foundation.

idoc
AIR CONDITIONING
The New Split Type Aircon

Wall-Mounted
1hp-P16,500
1.5hp-P18,500, 2hp-P25,000, 2.5hp-P30,000

Floor Mounted
3hp-P39,500 5hp-P55,000

Free Installation!
Call: 2432610, 2414731
Available @ MC Fort, Makati & Ortigas
Cebu: (032) 3465498 Davao: (082) 2358821

Customs chief says topping corruption list 'a good thing'

HIS AGENCY TOPPED THE OMBUDSMAN'S list of the country's most corrupt agencies but Customs Commissioner Napoleon Morales does not mind.

"That's a good thing," said Morales, reacting to a statement from Ombudsman Merceditas Gutierrez that the customs bureau with the Bureau of Internal Revenue were the most corrupt government agencies based on the number of graft cases filed as a result of internal lifestyle checks.

Morales said it meant the Department of Finance, which has supervisory control over the customs and internal revenue bureaus, was doing its job well.

"The way I look at it the basis of the Ombudsman's report was the lifestyle check... because that's where their data came from," he said.

Morales said Finance Secretary Margarito Teves has been conscientious in asking for the statements of assets and liabilities of customs appraisers and examiners to determine whether their assets could have been legally earned based on their income.

In 2003, Malacañang issued Executive Order 259 which allowed the DOF to create an internal affairs team to institutionalize lifestyle checks on revenue collection officers.

Called the Revenue Integrity Protection Service, Or RIPS, the team carries out investigations and files complaints against erring revenue officials.

Morales said he was not aware how other agencies checked on their personnel.

He said he himself has ordered seminars to be conducted in the DOF to teach customs employees how to fight graft.

He believes the customs bureau's performance so far shows that it has been effective in fighting corruption. He pointed out that if corruption was still rampant, the bureau would not have met its collection targets.

The BOC surpassed its collection target in

the first five months of the year by about P4.5 billion.

Gutierrez said the Department of Public Works and Highways and the Department of Education followed the BOC and BIR in the list of the most corrupt agencies.

Sought for comment, Public Works Secretary Hermogenes Ebdane said he believes the department has gone down in ranking of agencies perceived to be corrupt.

Ebdane said he has instituted reforms in the department. He said he has ensured that DPWH employees would follow procedures so they would not run afoul of the law.

Leila B. Salaverria

COPIERS Sales/Rentals
RICOH • Canon • Olivetti • Savin
Also Available: LIQUID COPIERS

BRAND NEW CANON J1210 BEST FOR BUS
P11,000 ONLY
POWDER TYPE FT 3320 15 CFM
P39,950 ONLY

BRAND NEW CANON FC 290 FOR PERSONAL USE
P20,000 ONLY
P15,000 ONLY

RECOH RICOH FT 3413 BEST FOR BUSINESS
PARTS & SUPPLIES AVAILABLE FOR MOST COPIER BRANDS

COPYTRADE
Copytrade Bldg. 550 MF Johnson St. Sampaloc, Manila (Beside Neri Univ.)
Tels: 740-8155 to 56 781-3472 • 749-8216
www.copytrade.com.ph

RINGBINDER / LAMINATORS
CUTTER / BLUEPRINT / MBO
FAX MACHINES, ETC.
ACCEPT COPIER RENTALS FOR SHORT EVENTS
BUY/TRADE-IN OLD COPIERS

we are taiwan's No. 1 water pump

WE OFFER
New Technology "Package Type"
Auto Pressure Water Pump with Built-in pressure tank.

TQ1500
It's Compact / Easy Installation / Reliable Performance for many years!!!

PW Series TP8

Distributed by: **TradeONE**
DEALERS ARE WELCOME!!!

CALL 376-4130 / 412-6363
NOW 371-1178 / 371-3032

NEW
Soon to dominate the skyline
MAKATI EXECUTIVE TOWER III
Cityland Square, Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Pio Del Pilar, Makati City

40-storey Office, Commercial & Residential Condominium
Own a unit for as low as **P9,773/mo.**

Amenities: Swimming Pool
Children's Playground
Function Room / Gym
Sauna for men & women

Laundromat space (for lease)
Drying Area / Roof Deck
Viewing Deck / Jogging Deck
24-hour Association Security

812-2222 818-8888 243-6565 241-1894
(Ext. 404) (Ext. 404) (Ext. 404) (Ext. 404)
www.cityland.net
Investment@cityland.net

PROTECT YOUR FAMILY FROM SICKNESS!
The best solution to maintain healthy homes
NOW AVAILABLE IN THE PHILIPPINES

Introducing... **AquaSelect**

1. **WATER BATH filter**
Uniquely designed compartment creates special "turbulent effect" to wash dust from the air. Dust is bound by water.

2. **WASHABLE filter**
Extra-long life made from durable material. It retains minute airborne particles in metal air.

3. **HEPA filter**
High Efficiency Particulate Air filter originally designed for clean room computer chip production and surgical rooms. It provides a protective screen against harmful particles.

4. **MOTOR EXHAUST filter**
Retains tiny carbon dust emissions from the motor. No harmful carbon dust gets back into the air.

German-Manufactured Water Filtration Health Cleaning System

- equipped with HEPA filter
- eliminates air pollution
- sanitizes and disinfects your home
- prevents allergies caused by dust mites
- prevents breathing difficulties
- cleans everything inside your home, including beds, pillows, upholstery, carpets, etc. using water but nothing gets wet

Wash the dust, Clean the air!

For FREE DEMO, call
HAFS ENTERPRISES & SERVICES
4/F King's Mark Building 880 V.G. Cruz St., Sampaloc, Manila
TEL: 741-2408 • 711-4368 • 749-7742

Reach-in, Work top and Glass Door Chiller and Freezers!

On display at our showroom!

Call: **merit** at **6338753 or 6338752**
or
Visit our showroom at:
Pilipinas Hino Building, Edsa Corner Madison Street, Mandaluyong
Website: <http://www.meritstainless.com>



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
GOVERNMENT SERVICE INSURANCE SYSTEM
Financial Center, Roxas Blvd., Pasay City, 1308

NOTICE TO INTERESTED PARTIES

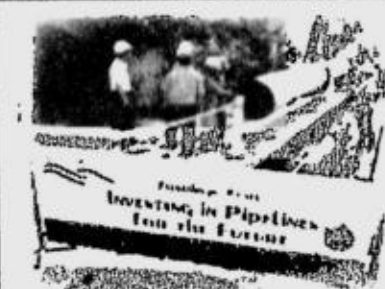
The GSIS, thru its **ACQUIRED ASSETS EVALUATION COMMITTEE (AAEC)**, shall be accepting offers for the following properties:

- Former GSIS Makati Office**
Location: Legazpi St., Legazpi Village, Makati City
TCT Nos. S - 19518, S - 19519, S - 19520
Land Area: 2,429sqm.
Improvements: 7 storey bldg. w/ roof deck
Proposal Type: Long Term Lease
- GSIS Quezon City Property**
Location: Elliptical Road, Quezon City
TCT Nos. N-187226, N-187227
Land Area: 29,844 Sqm.
Proposal Type: Long Term Lease

Interested parties may submit their proposals to the Disposition of Acquired Assets Department, 5th floor, Core C, GSIS Headquarters, Financial Center, Pasay City on or before July 14, 2006.

All proposals shall be evaluated by the AAEC and shall be subject to the final approval of the President and General Manager and/or BOARD OF TRUSTEES. GSIS reserves the right to reject any and/or all proposals.

(Sgd) **RENATO R. SANTICO**
Senior Vice President
Housing and Real Property Development Group



Upgrading of pipelines to cause temporary water interruption in portion of Makati City

Manila Water is currently undertaking an aggressive capital expenditure program to improve the distribution of water in the East Zone. In line with this, the company will upgrade large pipelines along EDSA and Ayala which will result in a temporary cutoff of water supply. The interruption will begin 10:00 p.m., Saturday, June 24, 2006, up to 8:00 a.m., Sunday, June 25. The following barangays will be affected: Bel-Air, Salcedo, Legaspi, Bgy. Poblacion, Pio Del Pilar, San Lorenzo, Palm Village and Guadalupe Viejo.

Manila Water Company advises all residents of the said areas to store enough water prior to the scheduled interruptions to avoid inconvenience.



For the latest update, please call our
Customer Call Center Hotline at 1627.

We don't just lay pipes, we improve lives.



Gov't gave Lafayette P3.5-B tax break

By Blanche S. Rivera

THE GOVERNMENT HAS FOREGONE collecting \$63.88 million or P3.57 billion in taxes from Lafayette Philippines Inc. for mining gold and base metals in Albay because of the tax perks given to the Australian firm by the Philippine Economic Zone Authority (Peza).

A report prepared by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources on Lafayette's operations in Rapu-Rapu, a 5,000-ha island in Albay, showed that the national and local governments could earn \$122.69 million or P6.8 billion over six years if no tax incentives had been offered to the firm.

Instead, the government stands to gain only \$58.81 million or P3.29 billion during Lafayette's six-year mine life because of the tax perks enjoyed by Lafayette's subsidiary Rapu-Rapu Processing Inc. as a locator in a special economic zone.

Peza had declared 41.38 hectares of the

180-ha mine area of Lafayette a special economic zone, exempting the company from paying real estate and other taxes, and requiring it to pay only five percent of the mandated 35 percent corporate income tax.

Environment Secretary Angelo T. Reyes has asked Peza to review the economic zone status of a portion of Rapu-Rapu.

The 70-page report that found Lafayette guilty of lapses that caused two mine spills also noted that the tax incentives granted to Lafayette made the sharing scheme "grossly unfavorable to the Philippine government."

The current scheme stands at 24-74 in favor of Lafayette.

Reyes said he would push for 54-46, or the scheme representing a tax perk-free arrangement with Lafayette in favor of the government.

Lafayette Mining Ltd. said yesterday it paid a fine of P10.4 million (\$195,490) imposed by the government after the two cyanide spills in its

mine in October last year.

The company also said it expected to fully comply this week with 15 conditions set by the government before it can start a 30-day test run at its mine on Rapu-Rapu, which was ordered to halt operations after the spills.

"We're definitely hoping that for our own benefit we will be able to start the test run soon," said Bayani Agabin, a lawyer and vice president at Lafayette's Philippine unit.

Reyes has said the test run, if successful, will lead to the full reopening of the mine.

The government is pushing a revival of the mining sector to attract foreign investment and reduce poverty but has come under pressure from influential Roman Catholic bishops voicing concerns about the environmental impact.

Lafayette, the first foreign firm to develop and run a mine in the Philippines in almost 40 years, estimates Rapu-Rapu will generate revenues of \$350 mil-

lion per year from annual production of 10,000 tons of copper in concentrates, 14,000 tons of zinc, 50,000 ounces of gold and 600,000 ounces of silver.

A fact-finding committee investigating the spills in October, chaired by Sorsogon Bishop Arturo Bastes, called for the permanent closure of Lafayette's operations, a moratorium on mining on Rapu-Rapu and a review of the law allowing 100-percent foreign ownership of local mines.

The test run at the Rapu-Rapu mine will involve three stages—a five-day run of the processing plant with water to detect pipe leaks; a nine-day run with ore but without the minerals; and a 15-day run with ore and metals.

Some estimates value the Philippines' mineral wealth at \$1 trillion. But many foreign investors have been discouraged by political turmoil, corruption, insurgencies in the resource-rich south and opposition from bishops and indigenous groups.

With a Reuters report

Aussie mining firm coughs up P10M for fine

LAFAYETTE PHILS. ANNOUNCED yesterday it had paid a P10.4-million fine for two mine incidents in October as it completed additional pollution safeguards imposed by the government preparatory to testing its processing facilities and eventually its resumption of operations.

The payment and the new safeguards were ordered by Environment Secretary Angelo Reyes as conditions before the test run, which would involve only water initially to allow the company's technicians to check the system for leaks and further fine-tuning, Lafayette said in a statement.

Lafayette said its new management under Carlos G. Dominguez had spent about P400 million for these remedial measures since taking over last January to show that the company would operate with the full assurance of environmental and health protection.

Lafayette's word

Dominguez, who spearheads Lafayette's bid to regain the public's trust in the company, had given his word that Lafayette would resume operations only after its systems and facilities pass all tests.

At full operations, the company said it is expected to directly hire 900 people, most of them from the host communities of Albay and Sorsogon.

With new revenues, the company said it would launch a series of projects that will directly benefit these communities, with education, livelihood, and environmental protection as priorities, including P31 million worth of social development projects.

In its decision, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) noted that aside from creating jobs, the project would also pay the government P3 billion in taxes, of which P244 million will go to local governments.

Full remediation

Reyes noted that allowing the project to resume operations would ensure the full remediation and rehabilitation of the mine site after the project is terminated in about seven years.

"An abandoned open pit mine is not an attractive proposition as it will simply cause small miners to descend on the area and they will operate without environmental safeguards and safety measures," said Reyes.

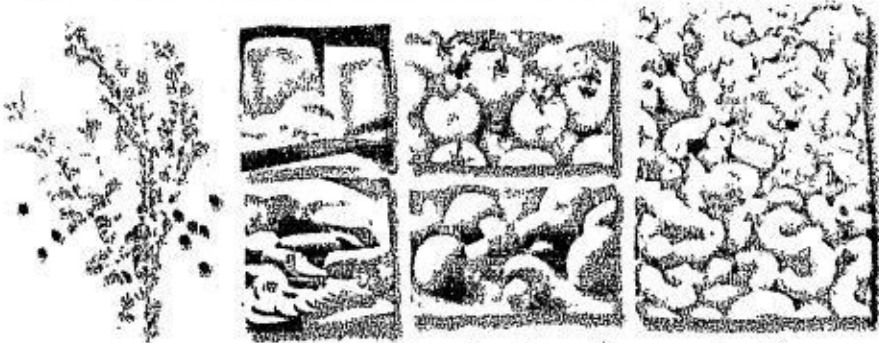
"In this case, the government, and ultimately the Filipino taxpayer, will have to shoulder the considerable cost of remediation and rehabilitation. Allowing Lafayette to resume operations will allow an ECC-consistent mine rehabilitation and decommissioning plan to be implemented," he added.

DISCOVER

g
greenwich

new Baked Macaroni Supreme

Enjoy the crisp top layer of parmesan, mozzarella and cheddar cheese all sprinkled with crunchy bread crumbs. And it's now made meatier with rich Italian sausage, pepperoni, ham and chicken bits all baked to delicious perfection. Try it today only at Greenwich.



greenwich

THE DAILY GOSPEL



Saturday, June 24, 2006
Birth of John the Baptist

1st Reading: Is 49:1-6
2nd Reading: Acts 13:22-26
Gospel: Luke 1:57-66, 80

When the time came for Elizabeth, she gave birth to a son. Her neighbors and relatives heard that the merciful Lord had done a wonderful thing for her and they rejoiced with her.

When on the eighth day they came to attend the circumcision of the child, they wanted to name him Zechariah after his father. But his mother said, "Not so; he shall be called John." They said to her, "No one in your family has that name"; and they asked the father by means of signs for the name he wanted to give. Zechariah asked for a writing tablet and wrote on it, "His name is John," and they were very surprised. Immediately Zechariah could speak again and his first words were in praise of God.

A holy fear came on all in the neighborhood, and throughout the Hills of Judea the people talked about these events. All who heard of it pondered in their minds and wondered, "What will this child be?" For they understood that the hand of the Lord was with him.

As the child grew up, he was seen to be strong in the Spirit; he lived in the desert till the day when he appeared openly in Israel.

Commentary

John: called from his mother's womb, a prophet that is an arrow of God, a sharp-edged sword of the Word of God, sent to the heart of the people who stray. God holds him in his quiver until it is time, as servant who shows forth his glory to all. He lives to declare the coming of the light and restore Israel, to go before the face of the Lord to come. He is known only by God and when he is born the tradition shifts. He is named John, beloved of God not in the line of his father's family. Even his name opens the mouth of his father and calls forth the praise of God. What will this child be? Even as we live our lives called in baptism we too must live as this sword, this arrow, this servant of God going before the face of the Lord.

Claretian Publications Inc., 8 Mayumi St., UP Village, Diliman, Quezon City, UP PO Box 4, Diliman, 1101 Quezon City; Tel.: 921-3984; Fax: 921-7429; E-mail: cci@claret.org; Websites: <http://www.bible.claret.org> (Claretian Publications Inc.) & <http://missionaries.claret.org> (Claretians in the Philippines)



CENTRE FOR ADVANCE IMAGING

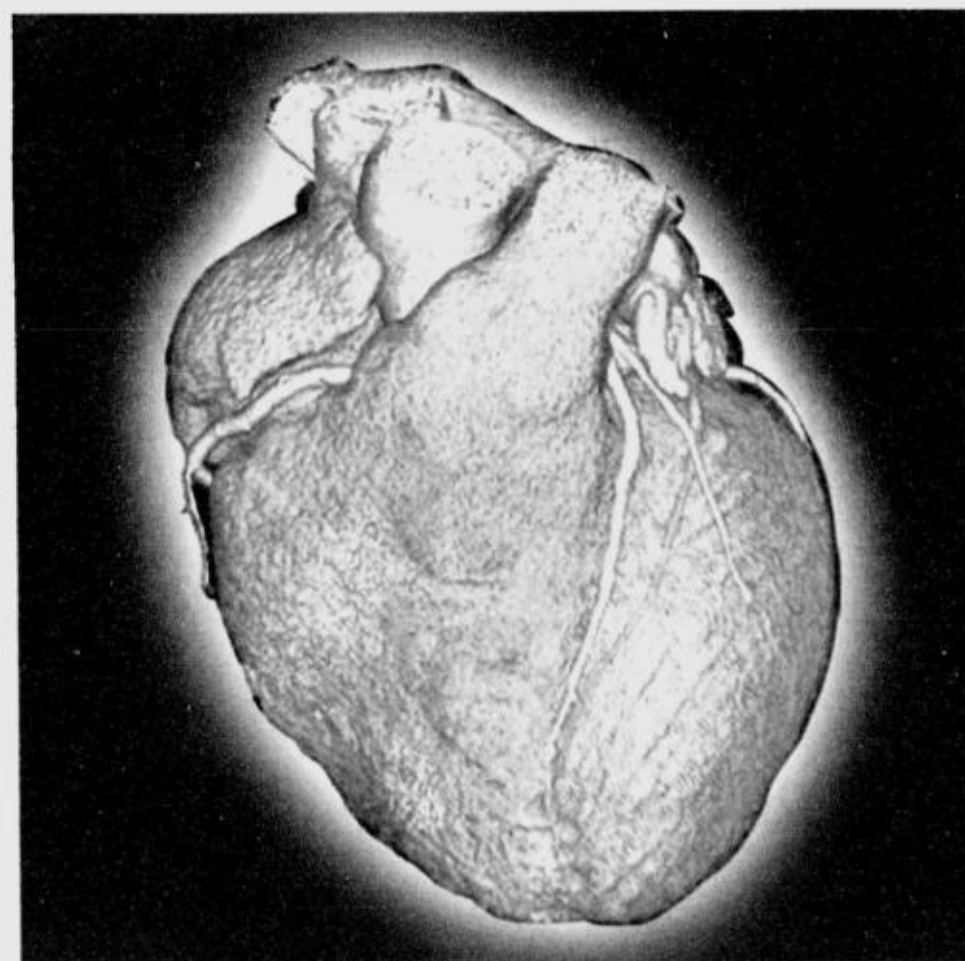
Cebu Doctors' University Hospital

*Announces the acquisition of the first and only true
64 slice volume CT Scan in Visayas and Mindanao*

Fastest CT Scan in the World today, able to scan the heart in just 5 heartbeats!

Thump-thump.
Thump-thump.
Thump-thump.
Thump-thump.
Thump-thump.

Congratulations. You've just completed
your LightsSpeed VCT Scan



New LightsSpeed VCT scans the heart in just 5 beats. Introducing the first Volume CT scanner for cardiologist. LightSpeed VCT gives you unprecedented 64-slice resolution and 40 mm coverage per rotation. That means it can scan the entire heart in just 5 beats and capture detail that lets you examine coronary arteries noninvasively. It can also capture submillimeter detail and non-calcified plaque at once. And it lets you check for coronary artery stenosis, pulmonary embolism and aortic dissection in a single scan.

Cancer staging or work up (whole body scan), Brain, Head (mastoids, ear, paranasal sinuses, orbits, nasal cavity, nasopharynx), Chest and lungs, abdomen, extremity, spine, trauma imaging, CT angiograms – BRAIN, RENAL, Peripheral vessel, PULMONARY arteries and the other routine CT scans are done much faster, with better image quality resulting in more accurate clinical diagnosis.



imagination at work.

GE Healthcare Technologies

2291 Don Chino-Roces Avenue Extension

Makati City

Tel No. (02) 815-8761 to 70 Fax No. (02) 816-4997

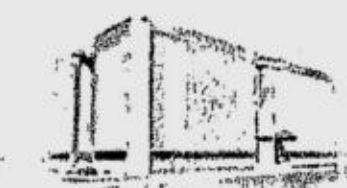
www.gehealthcare.com

CebuDocGroup

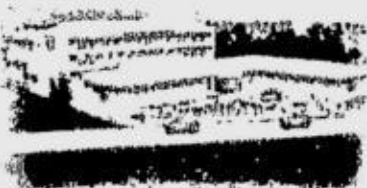
www.cebudocgroup.com



CEBU DOCTORS'
UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL
Osmeña Boulevard, Cebu City
Tel. 255-5555



CEBU DOCTORS' UNIVERSITY
Osmeña Boulevard, Cebu City
Tel. 253-8001



MACTAN DOCTORS' HOSPITAL
Basak, Lapu-Lapu City
Tel. 341-0000



NORTH GENERAL HOSPITAL
Talamban, Cebu City
Tel. 343-7777



SAN CARLOS
DOCTORS' HOSPITAL
San Carlos City, Negros Occidental
Tel. (034) 729-4888



SOUTH GENERAL HOSPITAL
Naga, Cebu
Tel. 272-2222

Below average

THE REPORTED \$200-MILLION WORLD BANK loan for education comes as a breath of fresh air after a series of bad news for a sector that has long been plagued by shortages, tight budgets, political meddling, etc. This is not to say that the \$200-million loan will solve the crisis in our educational system. In fact, the shortcomings of the public school system are only half of the crisis. The other half lies in us: our lack of resolve or political will to address it. We must do more than just rely on outside assistance to solve the crisis and do what we have to do fast.

The statistics are there for all to see. As of the latest count, our public school system lacks more than 10,000 elementary and high school teachers, not to mention textbooks and others. Making things worse, only about 19 percent of 51,000 teachers scored 75 percent or better in English in a 2004 Self-Assessment Test conducted by the Department of Education, and a big number of Science and Math teachers did not major in those subjects.

These inadequacies may partly explain the disturbing academic performance of our students and the dubious literacy rate in a country touted as one of the most highly educated in the region and once Southeast Asia's favorite source of quality education. Around 9 million of the 57.6 million Filipinos aged 10-64 years are "functionally illiterate," meaning, "unable to read, write, subtract and add, or understand instructions—something normally learned by Grade 4." Even so, the "functional literacy rate" of 85 percent is "probably overstated." Among Grade 6 kids, only 26 percent have a mastery of English, 15 percent of Science, and 31 percent of Math; and among senior high school students, only 7 have mastered English, 2 percent, Science, and 16 percent, Math.

In the Trends in Math and Science Survey (TIMSS) taken in 2003, the Philippines scored the lowest among a group of Asian countries that included Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore.

To the credit of the private sector, a growing number of corporations and individuals have been responding to the crisis in various ways—building classrooms, providing learning facilities, funding scholarships, etc. And more and more local government units are pitching in, according to the Foundation for Worldwide People Power, which itself has launched Education Revolution 2006, a movement that seeks to mobilize entire communities in promoting quality education.

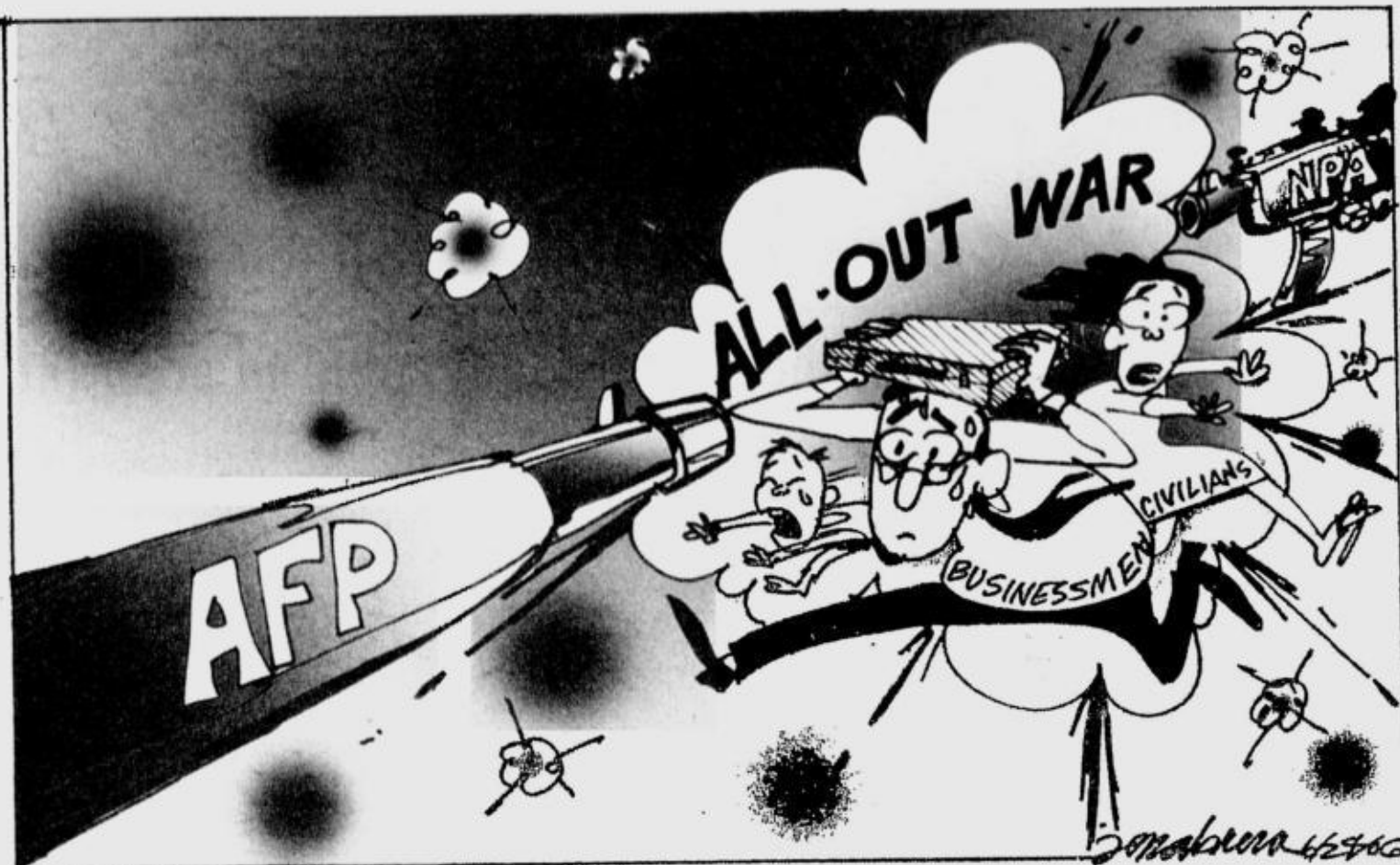
But the national government has yet to match these initiatives. In fact, it treats the crisis with some show of concern only around school year openings, and largely forgets it the rest of the year. The national government budget for education is very revealing. For example, in 2005, out of the total budget of P907.56 billion, the DepEd got only P112 billion. In the bigger P1,053-trillion budget proposed for 2006, the DepEd's budget is reduced to P108 billion. If we look deeper, 85 percent of the education department's annual budget goes to pay the salaries of teachers. That leaves a mere 15 percent for capital outlay, maintenance and operations (and needless to say, the actual amount spent for such items is even smaller because of corruption).

It may be argued that, among the departments, the DepEd has still the biggest appropriation. But it only amounts to 12 percent of the national budget compared to the ideal 20 percent.

It may be foolish to see some relief coming from our lawmakers. For example, how much of their pork barrel would they rather spend for non-priority projects, like waiting sheds and basketball courts, than for education?

It was only after the nation's attention was focused on the classroom shortage (which was denied by President Macapagal-Arroyo) that the bicameral conference committee, upon the instance of the Senate, sought to increase the DepEd's budget. But then the 2006 budget is unlikely to be passed by Congress, and the 2005 budget is poised for reenactment.

Significantly, the President has promised an additional P1 billion for her all-out war against communists to be taken from the "non-repeating projects" included in the 2005 budget. She has also committed another P1 billion for the government's anti-corruption campaign. Nothing for education. That surely says a lot about her priorities. And yet, the Constitution says the government should give the "highest budgetary priority to education."



'The most formidable weapon'

IF YOU BELIEVE GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO is guilty of the offenses imputed to her by her critics, you must join the movement to impeach and remove her as President of the Philippines.

That is not only your right but a duty imposed upon you as "an individual particle of sovereignty." It is your will, with those of other Filipinos similarly exalted, that will rechart and protect the future of our country.

You cannot just stand still, given your considered conclusions. You are not only an observer of the passing scene but an active protagonist in the drama unfolding before us. You are as much an accuser and complainant as those who will actually prosecute her.

Impeachment has been described as "the most formidable weapon in the arsenal of democracy." But it is also derided as a "rusty blunderbuss" that is hardly fired because of its procedural limitations.

In the United States where our impeachment rules have been patterned, no President has been removed through this difficult method. Richard Nixon might have been its first casualty but evaded this dishonor by resigning. Andrew Johnson survived by a margin of only one vote and Bill Clinton by a bigger lead that even included Republican support.

The President of the Philippines, as well as other high officials of our government, may be impeached for culpable violation of the Constitution, treason, bribery, graft and corruption, other high crimes, or betrayal of public trust.

A complaint for impeachment may be filed by any member of the House of Representatives or by any citizen upon a resolution of endorsement by any House member. It may be elevated to the Senate by a vote of one-third of

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz



Let us rally against the new dictatorship with our sovereign will as our most formidable weapon

all the members of the House of Representatives.

Trial will be conducted by the Senate to be presided by the Chief Justice when the President of the Philippines is the respondent. Conviction shall require the vote of two-thirds of all the members of the Senate.

The judgment shall not extend beyond removal from office and disqualification to hold any other position in the government, but the accused shall still be subject to prosecution under our criminal laws.

Despite the strong evidence against President Joseph Estrada during his impeachment trial, it is doubtful if he could have been convicted with no less than 12 senators determined to acquit him. The 11 other senators were 5 short of the 16 votes needed to convict.

Last year, the complaint for impeachment

against President Arroyo did not even reach first base. Her accusers could not enlist the one-third vote needed to refer the matter to the Senate.

One maneuver the complainants against Ms Arroyo are guarding against is the pre-emption of their bona fide charges by a fake complaint to be filed by her allies that is sure to be dismissed for lack of merit. Such a scheme will prevent the filing of another complaint against her during a period of one year, as prohibited by the Constitution.

Reportedly, there will be a vigilance task force to prevent the hatching of the insidious scheme. How? By violently preventing the filing of such a sham complaint? That would be a strong-arm tactic that would negate the peaceful (and intelligent) image of the enemies of the questioned Malacañang tenant.

I have the highest respect for the civic-minded persons who will file the complaint for impeachment against President Arroyo. They deserve the esteem and encouragement of all Filipinos who value freedom and detest oppression. I am personally determined to give them my full support in the exercise of my own resources, including my devotion to the Rule of Law.

My special admiration for Josefina T. Lichauco, a worthy colleague in the bar, for inspiring and leading the stalwart defenders in their threatened but undaunted ramparts.

All of us who share their passion for liberty are co-complainants with them in the condemnation of the abuses of the present administration under Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. Let us rally against the new dictatorship with our sovereign will as our most formidable weapon under the flag of the tattered Constitution.

Bad laws lead to poor revenue take

REVENUE COMMISSIONER JOJO BUÑAG asked me to lunch after this column put him under a microscope a couple of weeks ago (where he unfortunately didn't come out looking too good). The request was done in the usual Asian manner—roundabout—that is to say, Buñag to friend to my husband Christian back to friend back to Buñag and finally to me (all through text), until a mutually convenient time and place could be arranged.

I appreciate the commissioner's efforts to explain his side, although it could have been done in a more efficient, albeit less pleasant, manner had he written his reaction and sent it to this newspaper. At least, it wouldn't have cost me so much (I paid for my own lunch—my call—and it set me back a pretty penny). The bright side is that Buñag is a very congenial person, and he thoughtfully provided me with several annual reports of the BIR, and other information that I asked for.

He made the following points, which in the interest of transparency and fair play, I faithfully report without comment: (1) The 2006 BIR targets were a "done deal" before Buñag, who was a deputy to Willy Parayno, took over; (2) Parayno's BIR met the 2003 targets, but did not meet the 2004 targets; (3) the targets for 2006 may have been set too high, and P20 billion of that was wrongfully assigned to the BIR rather than to the Bureau of Customs; (4) The 2-percent point increase in the VAT starting this year isn't going to increase tax revenues to any appreciable extent; (5) Nevertheless, Buñag has changed his tune, and thinks that the targets can now be met; and (6) The head of the Large Taxpayers Service (LTS), who was removed and frozen during Rene Bañez's watch, did not get reappointed to that unit—she was instead promoted to deputy commissioner by President Macapagal-Arroyo. In connection with the last point, I apologize to the current head of the LTS, Merlinda L. Ordoyo, for any grief my giving out wrong information may have caused her.

GET REAL

Solita Collas-Monsod



That having been disposed of, the fact remains that the Philippines, even if the BIR were to successfully achieve its target, will still have one of the lowest tax-effort ratios (tax revenues to GDP) in the region, if not the world. Generally, at this stage of the conversation, fingers are pointed accusingly at the tax collection agencies and their heads (that's how Buñag got written about two weeks ago). But it is time we reminded ourselves of factors that are beyond the control of the revenue collection agencies, and for these, a great deal of the blame can be laid on Congress.

But we only legislate, our lawmakers claim, it is the executive department that implements. That is true. Still the quality of that legislation, particularly in tax matters, can and has been pretty bad.

Not to nag, but I must again cite as an example the failure of our lawmakers to remove one simple provision in the original sin tax bill, a provision that was inserted only during the bicameral committee negotiations. This provision mandates the use of 1996 prices as the basis for calculating the taxes on cigarettes, until changed by Congress. Well, Congress still refused to change it after seven years. The "new" sin tax law still contains it. According to estimates made by the Department of Finance, using 1996 instead of current prices to compute sin taxes costs Filipinos about P20 billion a year in foregone revenues. The main beneficiaries of the provision are the cigarette companies owned by Lucio Tan.

But large as that loss is, it pales in comparison

with the foregone revenues as a result of the lousy fiscal incentives program (the objective of which is supposedly to encourage investments, both foreign and domestic), also passed by Congress. Why is it a lousy program? Because a just-completed study undertaken by Renato Reside of the UP School of Economics, entitled (dramatically but aptly) "Business and Government Without a Conscience" *(The tragic redundancy of fiscal incentives for investment in the Philippines)* finds that a large amount of incentives are redundant: they are given to many firms that would have invested anyway.

Reside estimates that 95 percent of the value of investments registered by the Board of Investments were given incentives that were redundant, and the cost to Filipinos of these incentives (income tax holidays, tax and duty exemptions) amounted to about P43.2 billion in 2004. This does not include the cost of redundancies in other "investment promoting agencies" such as the Philippine Economic Zone Authority, Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority and Clark Special Economic Zone.

To make matters worse, Reside, using econometric tools, finds that the incentives are "impotent"—they do not have the predictive power for cross-region investment (which is consistent with the results of cross-country studies). Rather, what influence the investment are real per capita GDP (i.e., a strong regional market), functional literacy (access to educated labor inputs promotes investment), and infrastructure (high road density promotes investment).

The biggest tragedy, of course, is that in giving the incentives to those who don't need them, much needed resources are lost that could have been used to improve the very education and infrastructure, which are the true promoters of investment.

There is a lesson here: Before Congress points to the motes in other people's eyes, it should deal with the mote in its own eye first.

Publisher ISAGANI YAMBOT

Editor in Chief LETTY JIMENEZ-MAGSANOC

Managing Editor JOSE MA. D. NOLASCO

Associate Editor ABELARDO S. ULANDAY

Associate Editor for Readership ROSARIO A. GARCELLANO

News Editor ARTEMIO T. ENGRACIA JR. • Chief, News Day Desk NILO B. PAUROM

Opinion Editor JORGE V. ARUTA

National Editor PERGENTINO B. BANDAYREL JR.

Senior Desk Editor JUAN V. SARMIENTO JR.

Editorial Consultant AMANDO DORONILA

Chief Photographer ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

Art & Design Director LYNETT A. VILLARIBA

Board Chairman MARIXI R. PRIETO

President ALEXANDRA PRIETO-ROMUALDEZ

Executive Vice President DAVID O. VALDES

Senior Vice President for Sales and Marketing RENATO R. REINOSO

VP for Advertising FELIPE R. OLARTE

AVP for Circulation SANDY SIMON R. YAP

Readers' Advocate LORNA KALAW TIROL

readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph • Tel. No. 897-8808, Loc. 342

Save the Constitution but lose the nation?

A NEW GROUP CALLED "ONE VOICE" IS IMPRESSIVE as it counts with eight bishops (out of 120 CBCP members), former Cabinet members, two former election commissioners, several 1986 Constitutional Commission members, the superior of the Jesuits in the Philippines, a number of educators, NGO workers, etc. In a full-page ad, it stated its major thesis: that there is no need to change the Constitution as basic social and electoral reforms can be done without it.

To my mind, the argument is flawed. Many reforms the group seeks are on every Filipino's wish list, e.g., social and economic infrastructure and safety-nets for the poor, but most of them need legislation. Our experience in the past 60 years, however, shows that such laws cannot be passed by our perennially deadlocked two-chamber set-up. For instance, One Voice rightly cites housing as a major concern, but the bill creating the Department of Housing has slept in the Senate, along with many other reform bills. There's also the perpetual conflict between the executive and legislative. Under the parliamentary system, the two branches are fused under a party government that claims full responsibility for governance.

One Voice has raised apprehensions that are not valid. It says the proposed Constitution is not acceptable because it takes away our right to vote directly for the president. It's conceded that Filipinos want to vote directly for their president for a good number of reasons, the pecuniary and the circus-like campaign atmosphere included. But to use this as a major argument is clearly to play to the gallery. They surely know that many nations do not vote directly for the head of government, but also are more progressive than our country.

One Voice also raised the bogey of no elections in 2007. This was indeed a scenario raised in the consultative commission by a very small group, but this was quickly killed in the debates.

It also raised fears about having a "super-President with additional Prime Minister powers." But isn't the proposal to create the new post of prime minister precisely intended to dilute the powers

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan



of a strong president, so that by 2010 he would be reduced to a ceremonial role, or perhaps even become non-existent?

The group also asserted that "constitutional reforms are best done through a more transparent Constitutional Convention after the 2007 elections." But the lessons of the 1971 Con-Con show that such an undertaking takes years to finish and is very expensive. Sen. Edgardo Angara, who was in that Con-Con, recalled that the preamble alone took over six months and consumed the entire P15 million budget. By the time the Con-Con finishes its work, *baka tapos na ang boxing* and we would have been left far behind by our neighbors.

One Voice seems loaded with personalities from the Aquino years, some recycled from the Black and White Movement. But it may be that they're too engrossed with saving the Cory Constitution, which was a direct reaction to the Marcos regime, but not as earnest as saving the nation from stagnation.

This Monday, Philippine Export Zone Authority director general Lilia de Lima will receive a singular honor from the Japanese emperor when she becomes the very first Filipino to be decorated with Japan's Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Star. It will be conferred at the residence of Ambassador Ryuichi Yamazaki. The historic award, Japan's first, was established in 1875 and is conferred bi-annually upon foreigners "who have made notable contributions to enhance bilateral relations." De Lima is being recognized for the "distinguished services she has been making to encourage investments by Japanese enterprises." As required of any foreign decoration, Congress gave its consent last

May 31 for De Lima to accept the award.

Since Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Aso formally notified her last April 29, congratulatory messages have poured from various Japanese firms, including the giants of Japanese industry. The honor is very richly deserved by this lady lawyer who has steered Peza for many years now. She brings great honor to our country. Congratulations, Lilia!

While one Filipina is being honored, another one is being unjustly treated by the Comelec's First Division, headed by Commissioner Resurrection Borra. Recently, the First Division reversed the decision of Judge Arturo Bernardo of the Gapan City Regional Trial Court, upholding the victory of the multi-awarded, second-term mayor of San Isidro, Nueva Ecija, Sonia R. Lorenzo. The public school teachers who testified in court affirmed that the elections were clean and honest and that the returns they prepared reflected the true count. But these were ignored by the First Division. One can only hope that the Comelec en banc will set things right.

Ironically, Lorenzo is being removed at a time when her honest and efficient administration has drawn many projects of big-time institutions to San Isidro. Surely these projects wouldn't have been drawn there if her poll victory was anomalous. The future of these projects is uncertain and the townspeople could be the loser. Among them are the Ateneo Center for Educational Development, which seeks to uplift the quality of public education there; the Gawad Kalinga which has made it the model for Central Luzon; the RP-Israel Center for Agricultural Training, one of two such centers in Region 3 that seeks to facilitate technology transfer. San Isidro, with Lorenzo at the helm, received the presidential award for best performing LGU against illegal drugs, and the national award from the League of Municipalities for innovative approaches to health care delivery. She was also recognized as the most outstanding mayor by the province in 2003 and this year. She was the only local executive among the seven AIM-Mirant Bridging Leadership Fellows from July 2005-2007.

Wining and dining

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David



which dish, beyond the formula of "white with seafood and red with meat."

Still, I can count a few memorable wine "moments," including two in which Shiraz, a grape variety that grows in Australia, figures prominently. The first was in San Francisco while I was on a six-week fellowship together with three other Filipinos: Rep. Neric Acosta, Bacolod-based journalist Mate Espina and reproductive health advocate Dr. Junice Melgar. We had decided to pool our money for dinner and the congressman volunteered to cook *adobo*, which we instantly dubbed his "pork barrel *adobo*." Trawling the aisles of a gourmet market for wine, I stumbled upon a bottle of Shiraz, which I had read about, and recommended we try it. It was a propitious choice. The mellow, fruity Shiraz complemented the *adobo* perfectly and we finished the bottle without trouble.

A year or so later, I was in Singapore with a few friends to watch our common friend Bart Guingona in a play. On our last day, we met at a fast-food outlet and Guido Delgado, who fancies himself a wine connoisseur, brought out a bottle of a prize-winning Shiraz vintage, which he said he had found through the Internet. We committed the mortal sin of drinking the wine from plastic cups, but even in plastic cups amid the mundane and noisy setting of a basement outlet, the wine transported us out of our dreary reality.

TRANSPORTING indeed was the "Torres Wine Dinner" held at Segundo Piso Bistro (roughly, second-floor bistro) of Terry's Selection along Pasong Tamo Extension in Makati.

A Viva Esmeralda Moscatel-Gewustraminer

Is 'Eurabia' inevitable?

WORLD VIEW

Mai Yamani

that exist between the mechanics of a modern free society and the sense of a vast conspiracy against Muslims. This has led to a schism between the hopes young Muslims have for successful lives in the West and their aspirations for their Muslim brothers and sisters, who have suffered so many terrible disappointments.

As young Muslims in Britain (and across the West) try to maneuver between the various, and often conflicting, aspects of their identity, three clear tendencies have emerged.

- A secular and pragmatic response, which makes Islam a private matter.

- A conservative stance that reconciles cultural, religious and familial ties with "Britishness."

- A radical response to the perceived collision between the foreign policies of their new homelands and the welfare of the Islamic world.

Messianic waves from the Middle East, reaching both schools and mosques, help draw young Muslims into radicalism. One such wave is created by the hardline Saudi/Wahhabi education system, which is based on the concept of *al-wala' wa al-bara'*, loyalty to the system and hostility to the infidels. This curriculum, exported Westward by fat Saudi subsidies, is heavily punctuated with denunciations of the infidels and calls to jihad. Designed to secure the legitimacy of the Saudi monarchy at home, it is indoctrinating young Western Muslims with values antithetical to open and free societies.

Britain's government is beginning to recognize the danger, and is trying to clamp down on schools and mosques that spread hate. Unfortunately, such repression has been merely reactive and shortsighted, with no clear long-term vision about the nature of Islamic education in the West.

Thus, it merely feeds young Muslims' fears that they are being singled out for persecution.

One difficulty with the British government's response is that it classifies all Muslims as just that: Muslim. By defining people on the basis of their religion, nuances—of national identity or of the degree of orthodoxy—are lost. This plays into the hands of radicals, because it makes Islam the central element of identity.

Islamic radicalization and terror need not continue to flourish in the West. Regardless of their disappointments with the Western countries' foreign policy, young Muslims have been exposed to their undeniable democratic spirit. They may now seek a deeper connection to their Muslim identity, but, having learned to question authority, they are unlikely to accept rigid parental or Islamic traditions. Like other young people around them, they want to be the agents of their own destiny.

This desire is changing Islam, especially in the West. The basic texts remain the same, but their interpretation, and the application of religion to people's lives, have not. Young Muslims, particularly in the West, are setting an example that is slowly being echoed in the Middle East, despite massive state repression.

The task for Western policymakers is to recognize the interconnection of foreign and domestic policies. They must become serious about backing legitimate democratic representation in Muslim countries, for only then will Western policy seem less hypocritical. They must also ensure that career choices are as open to their Muslim citizens as they are to everyone else.

In short, young Muslims in the West need to believe that democratic principles are respected abroad and applied equally at home. Only when such a belief becomes general will despair stop fueling terrorism, and suicide bombing come to be viewed as an obscene calling.

Project Syndicate

Mai Yamani is the author of "Cradle of Islam" and a senior research fellow at Chatham House, the Royal Institute of Economic Affairs.

'Noli me tangere'

I HAVE ALWAYS HAD A STRANGE RELATIONSHIP WITH Jose Rizal and his works. As a Filipino-American who migrated to the United States at the age of 9, I never had to read and study "Noli Me Tangere" and "El Filibusterismo," as did many of my contemporaries who were educated in the Philippines. But like the stamps of my identity, like my almond-shaped eyes and tanned skin, I have always carried

the ghost of Rizal

with me, especially

because of my first

name. Everywhere I

go, educated Fili-

pinos would ask,

"Hey, Basilio,

where's Crispin?"

And for most of my

life, I only had a

vague idea of what

they were talking

about because I had

not read Rizal's works,

although I was aware

that his writings

played a significant

role in my homeland's

struggle for

independence.

It wasn't until I was

27 and a graduate student

that I finally

picked up "Noli Me

Tangere" and plunged

into it, plumb-

ing my identity as an

"exiled" Filipino. That

led me to a dis-

covery that revealed

more to me about

myself, the land

where I came from

and the brilliance of

my countrymen.

Even as a child, I

knew (thanks to my

curiosity about this

strangely titled book

sitting on my parents'

bookshelf) that

the popular translation

of "Noli Me Tangere"

was "Touch Me

Not." I always thought

it was an odd title

for a book of its

repute, for what did

a command not to be

touched have to do

with Philippine inde-

pendence? I also found

it strange that the

title did not sound

Filipino, or even

Spanish (which many

people I knew believed

it was). I assumed

that if I read the

book, I would know

why Rizal chose this

title.

Reading "Noli,"

however, I could not

find any overt refer-

ence that would give

its exact meaning.

When I discussed

this with my parents

and my contemporaries,

I learned that

Filipinos are often

taught that "touch

me not" was a request

from Filipinos to

their Spanish colonial

masters to "leave-

them be" or to stop

abusing our people.

But this sounded

too simplistic to me.

For if it was meant

as a request to be

left alone, why did

Rizal choose to put

it this way and in

a strange language?

In the introduction

to his English trans-

lation of Rizal's

book, Leon Maria

Guerrero offers another

explanation: "Touch

Me Not" refers to

the Spanish religious

orders of the time,

who were considered

invincible and "un-

touchable," and

whose despotic and

corrupt practices

were the principal

target of the book.

This explanation

I also found inade-

quate. I felt it did

not go deep enough

into the heart of

the matter.

In graduate school,

I finally decided

to get to the bottom

of this mystery. On

the Internet, the first

thing I discovered

was that "noli me

tangere" was not

something that was

unique to Philip-

pine history. It is

Latin, and it can be

found in the Bible

in John 20:17: "Noli

me tangere," Jesus

tells Mary Magda-

lene upon her discov-

ery of His resurrect-

ed body, following

His crucifixion and

burial. It is a drama-

tic moment, captured

by many paintings

over the centuries

that bear the injunc-

tion as their title.

I also found out

the meaning of

"noli me tangere"

has never been

precisely defined,

and that it has been

subject of debate

among Christian

theologians and

scholars for hun-

dreds of years. One

eminent theologian,

Fr. Raymond Ed-

ward Brown, has

counted at least

11 different inter-

pretations given

by various scholars.

Some said Jesus' wounds

were still sore, and

so He asked not to

be touched to be

spared the pain. Others

believed that Jesus

was admonishing

Mary Magdalene

not to look for physical

proof that He was

alive but instead to

have faith in His

Resurrection. But

among the many

different interpretations

identified by Brown,

the most plausible,

to me, was the one

advanced by St. John

Chrysostom, bishop

of Antioch in the

4th and 5th centuries.

St. John said that

when Jesus uttered

those words, He was

asking for respect.

St. John believed

that Jesus was say-

ing, "Approach Me

not as ye did before,

for matters are not

in the same state,

nor shall I henceforth

be with you in the

same way."

When I read St. John

I had a eureka moment.

I felt sure that this

was what Rizal

intended to say

when he gave his

novel the title, "Noli

In poor countries, football is the cheapest sport to play because all you need is a ball. (In Brazil, from which a number of the world's best football players have come,

Other sports, like basketball, require height for mastery of the air; football demands mastery of the ground—and there the Filipino is a natural. Filipinos are fast: we are agile, we got grace and rhythm; we got head. Why don't we aspire to become a participant in the most popular sports event in the world—the World Cup? Speed, agility and grace are the same athletic traits required of boxing and we have been witness to a good number of Filipino boxers, past and present (and most likely fu-

—CHITO GONZALEZ,
chitogonzalez@gmail.com

—**ELLA E. VALENCERINA**,
vice president,
Public Affairs Office,
Government Service
Insurance System

2. How can one compare the performance of our school which has 2,700 students with that of Lope de Vega, which has 489 students only? But just because we lack schoolhouses or the Department of Education cannot provide us with enough teachers, our

—**JOCHEBED A. ACAB**,
General Pio Del Pilar
National High School,
E Zobel cor. Morong Street,
Poblacion, Makati City

Sadly, imported drugs are now being smuggled into the Philippine market without passing through the Bureau of Food and Drugs (BFAD), thus making them counterfeit. Without undergoing bioavailability and bioequivalence testing, these drugs are question-

Cruz also stated that the lines "pagka kaduda-duda ang presyo (when the price is doubtful)" and

—BU CASTRO, M.D.,
former president,
Philippine Medical Association,
member, Samahan Laban
Sa Pekeng Gamot

THANKS TO THE INQUIRER and DJ Yap of the Metro section for the encouraging news report, published in the April 17 issue of the INQUIRER, regarding my complaint against Wan Chai Restaurant on Congressional Avenue, Quezon City for not granting me the 20-percent discount mandated by law. The report gave me the

The restaurant manager has admitted the mistake and apologized for what happened. But I am determined to bring this case to court in the hope of moving Congress into legislating stronger penalties for violations of the

—NARCISO L. ALANO,
former NFA assistant
administrator,
narcingalano@surfshop.net

[illegible]

EZ2 SUERTRES
25 15 0 5 1
 (All in exact order)
FOUR DIGIT 4 3 4 0

Across the **NATION**
 Text us your feedback: Inquirer atn name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart) Assistant Editor Tony Bergonia

MEGALOTTO 6/45
4 8 34 39 41 42
P37,147,474.80

Pororo Pt. casino opens; Church aghast

By Peter La. Julian
 PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

SAN FERNANDO CITY—A CASINO OPENED AT the Poro Point discreetly, ignoring opposition from Church leaders in La Union.

The Poro Point Fiesta Casino opened without fanfare on May 2 amid opposition from the La Union clergy and other sectors.

The facility, which is part of the Poro Point and Tourism Complex inside the 68-hectare Poro Point

Special Economic and Freeport Zone (PPSEFZ), houses 100 slot machines and several gambling tables for baccarat and Pai Gow, a Chinese card game similar to the Filipino "pusoy."

The tourism complex includes

a first-class restaurant, which is near the casino.

From here, the visitor gets a good view of the surrounding area as the strip of land on which it is built juts into the South China Sea.

The casino starts business at noon and ends operations at 6 a.m.

Since its opening, the casino has attracted high rollers not only from the province but from Pangasinan, Ilocos Sur and Baguio City.

But local executives, businessmen, officials and employees of government agencies based in

this city are starting to patronize the casino.

Operated by Thunderbird Resorts Inc., a US-based firm that reportedly invested P1.3 billion in the venture, the casino and the resort facility employs about 300 workers.

Thunderbird, which operates 12 gaming businesses in five Latin American countries, also owns the Fiesta Casino and Resort in Rizal.

Bishop Artemio Rillera, of the Diocese of San Fernando,

slammed the casino operation.

Rillera said it would only spawn "untold evils" like prostitution, drug abuse, sexually transmitted diseases, crimes like robbery and the destruction of family values.

"There can never be a justification for promoting gambling under the pretext of generating jobs for the unemployed," he said, echoing the pastoral letter issued by the diocese last year.

Rillera said progress could be achieved in other areas that need

to be explored "for the sake of, providing job opportunities and uplifting the living conditions of the poor."

He lamented that the operation of the casino proceeded despite his meeting with President Macapagal-Arroyo in Malacañang last year seeking to stop its operation.

The INQUIRER, since last week, tried but failed to contact officials of the Poro Point Management Corp., which manages the PPSEFZ, for comment.

Controversy-ridden coal power plant splits townsfolk

By Tonette Orejas
 PDI Central Luzon Desk

MASINLOC, ZAMBALES—"WE made an asset inventory," said one of two Asian-looking executives as they hailed past two flights of stairs at the administration building of the Masinloc Coal-Fired Thermal Power Plant (MCFTPP) here on Thursday.

"We're from Ranhill," the other executive snapped back, referring to the Malaysian company Ranhill Berhad.

That was all that they wanted to say in a chance meeting with the INQUIRER. They both clammed up, clutching their hard hats and walked away, begging not to speak on the controversy that has gotten Ranhill's partner, the YNN Pacific Consortium, into a mess when it won the bid to buy for \$562 million (P29.89 billion) the 600-megawatt (MW) facility that they just inspected.

Ranhill, obviously, did not back out from doing an accounting of the power plant's assets even as the day before that, the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan filed a graft case against six Cabinet members sitting in the board of the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. (PSALM).

PSALM supervised the bidding of the biggest asset that the government placed on the auction block in 2004.

In another room, an engineer who has worked at the MCFTPP since the state-owned National Power Corp. (Napocor) commissioned this in 1998 viewed the Ranhill team's arrival as an indication there really was a "potential buyer at last."

YNN, as far as that engineer could remember, has never sent out a representative to check the facility before or after it won the bid in December 2004.

Residents split

Divided in 1993 on what to make of the MCFTPP, the people are torn again, this time about the project's future.

Some want to see it closed while others do not care who takes over as long as it does the work clean.

Andrew Edillor, who lives some 500 meters from the power plant, wished that the buyer would relocate the facility elsewhere.

"It shouldn't be here. Over the years, the smell it emits has turned foul. It's been causing us headaches, stomachaches, difficult breathing and dry throats. On some days, it lets out fine ash that's itchy on the skin," said Edillor, 35, a fisherman.

He said those incidents happened when one of the turbines poured out black smoke or when the coal stacked near the conveyors were not sprayed with water.

Edillor is worried about the health of his wife, Generous, who is pregnant with their first child. Generous said her neighbors suspected that several cases of spontaneous abortion among women in the village were due to exposure to the ash and the smell.

Leonardo Doma, Bani barangay captain, confirmed the complaints and said Mayor Jessu Edora went to the point of lending the management of MCFTPP a bulldozer to gather and dispose of the ash.

"My people were poised to stage a rally on June 12 but we decided to let the mayor act in the meantime," Doma said.

He likened the odor coming out of the plant to "a rotten egg or a burning rubber tire."

Edillor complained that the power plant has been throwing used oil on Masinloc Bay. This, he said, was why the fish catch has declined to



BLACK SMOKE comes out of the coal-fired Masinloc plant, an indication of the problems it faces from environment groups and the controversy that currently envelops it over alleged bidding irregularities.

PHOTO FROM GREENPEACE

five to 10 kg daily. To cope, fishermen venture out to other municipal waters or sail out thrice a day.

Eligio Flores, MCFTPP manager, said the ash escaped the holding area only once when a baby tornado hit the area in May and blew the fine particles in the di-

ments from among the residents.

"Our operations have caused no adverse effects on their health," he said.

Doma could not confirm this, but said many residents have been observed to be suffering from respiratory ailments or skin problems. A

This, the sources said, was obvious because until now and despite the deadline of Dec. 2, 2005 and the first extension on March 31, 2006, YNN has not paid the upfront fee of \$227 million, which is at least 40 percent of the bid price.

Although YNN's first partner, the Australian Great Pacific Financial Corp., had backed out and YNN failed to deliver the payment, PSALM did not forfeit the \$11.2 million performance bond and gave it another extension to pay on June 30.

Then came Ranhill

According to Napocor sources, PSALM president Nieves Osorio "probably never thought that the takeover of Ranhill from the Great Pacific was not sanctioned by PSALM's own bidding rules."

Ranhill, they claimed, changed the terms of the sale of MCFTPP, a plant that supplied the Luzon grid and not any contract in particular.

Ranhill did that, they said, by inserting a condition in the deal asking the government to get the MCFTPP a supply contract with the Lopez family-owned Manila Electric Corp. (Meralco).

"The government is incapable of conducting regular and judicious bidding process," the sources said of what the Masinloc privatization deal demonstrated to the local and international business communities.

Ties

Napocor sources said Energy Regulatory Commissioner Jesus Alcorido played a role in how YNN got the deal.

Alcorido used to be president of the Duracom Mobile Power Corp., whose chair was Filipino-Chinese businessman Sunny Sun who also heads the YNN.

Alcorido's company, East Asia Power, was said to have also paid \$3 million in "success fees" to Sun's YNN Holdings Corp. when it obtained a Meralco contract for East Asia Power's barges in Navotas.

Alcorido had said he had divested his interests in those companies when he joined the ERC.

Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla, one of the respondents in the graft case, defended the sale, saying it was "transparent and fully in accordance with the law."

Flores said it was better to see the MCFTPP in a private company's hands.

ROUNDUP

Quake drill commended

SAN PABLO CITY—The National Transmission Corp.-South Luzon Operations and Maintenance (Transco-Slom) has commended the successful holding of an earthquake drill in this city. Anna Katrina Nava, of the Transco-Slom Corporate Affairs Office, who witnessed the drill, said the whole process was well coordinated among the departments occupying the city hall building.

Romulo O. Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Student slain over cell phone

COTABATO CITY—A college student was shot dead inside the "ukay-ukay" section of the Megamarket here by an unidentified man, who fled with the victim's cell phone on Tuesday noon. Sam Mundas, market administrator, said Hana Hamsay, 18, was on the second floor of the market when the suspect approached her and grabbed her cell phone. Mundas said the victim refused to let go of her cell phone. "Sensing that the commotion was drawing more people to the scene, the suspect pulled a handgun and shot the victim...." said Mundas, quoting witnesses.

Charlie C. Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau

NBI to sue Bacolod bar

BACOLOD CITY—The National Bureau of Investigation is filing charges against the owners of a Bacolod bar for the alleged employment of a minor as a sex worker. NBI Bacolod chief Philip Pecache said charges would be filed against the owners of the Diamond Angels Bar in Bacolod City for violation of the Qualified Trafficking in Persons Law and the Anti-Child Abuse Law. Pecache said NBI forces from Cebu and Bacolod, with representatives of the Department of Social Services and Development and the Department of Labor and Employment, raided the bar on Wednesday night, arrested the manager and rescued nine females working there, one of whom was later found to be a minor.

Carla P. Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau

4 more medicine scholars

DUMAGUETE CITY—The provincial government of Negros Oriental has announced it is adding four more scholars to study medicine this year at the Silliman University here. The medical scholarship program was initiated by the provincial government last year in a bid to stop the exodus of doctors for higher paying jobs abroad. This brings to eight the number of provincial government scholars who are taking up the course since last year. Provincial Treasurer Danilo Mendez, a member of the Integrated Scholarship Program Committee, said the scholarship grant includes free tuition, a P2,500 a month allowance and free rooms or lodging at the provincial government's aqua center.

Romy Amarado, PDI Visayas Bureau



REKINDLING TIES

US Ambassador Kristie Kenney and Olongapo Mayor James Gordon Jr. meet in Olongapo City to discuss the city's recovery following the removal of US bases in Subic.

PHOTO FROM GORDON OFFICE

MGA DIABETIKO



"Mag-gulay para humaba ang buhay!"

abs, ABS na skel!

-Sen. Juan M. Flavio MD



Release the Power of 7 Herbs - synergistically blended to provide you with essential phytonutrients, antioxidants, & fiber. ABS Bitter Herbs helps you maintain healthy blood sugar levels naturally.

Available in all leading drugstores nationwide

INQUIRER *Visayas*

Wonders never cease from Samar nature

By Vicente S. Labro
Basey, Samar

THERE SEEMS TO BE no shortage of natural wonders on Samar Island that new eco-tourism sites would rise almost every year to accommodate nature lovers and adventure seekers who want to relish nature's world.

Last summer, a mountain resort operated by the local farmers' community was inaugurated in Basey and this immediately caught the attention of nature lovers. Located about 20 kilometers from the Basey town proper, the new place boasts of a tranquil and cool atmosphere beneath tall trees and beside a stream whose clear water comes from a waterfall. And it is being run by a group of villagers.

Since its opening last April, the resort has attracted a host of people who came either to just be in touch with nature or to enjoy their excursions or picnics amid the stately trees, the cool stream and the marvelous Balantac Falls.

With many people already coming to the resort, the management has given an assurance that they would never allow the place to lose its natural grandeur. In fact, their foremost concern is to protect and conserve the environment even as they continue to attract excursionists and tourists into this nature resort.

"Actually we did not plan to open the place this early, but people just kept on coming that we have no choice but to accommodate them," said Nelson Abiada, member of the board director of Rawis Community-based Resource Management Association (RCRMA), referring to the newly opened 6-hectare Balantac Resort.

According to Abiada, Samar Gov. Milagrosa T. Tan provided a funding of over P1 million for the initial development of Balantac Resort. The municipal government, headed by



A DIP in a natural pool at the Balantac Resort is a welcome respite on hot days.

VEN LABRO/POI VISAYAS

Mayor Vic Labuac, initiated the release of funds for the mountain resort, he added.

Tan and some provincial and municipal officials attended the inauguration of the resort's Phase 1 last April 19 and since then, Abiada said, people have kept on coming to the RCRMA-managed Balantac Resort.

Minimal fees, future plans

Though the construction of their single and duplex cottages is not yet finished, and they still lack guest cabins, beddings and electricity, the resort is now operating regularly, charging an entrance fee of P5 for each child and P10 for an adult, and a kiosk rental of P100.

Guests would fill all of the resort's 14 kiosks, especially during weekends, that some of the visitors would just have their picnics on grassy spots beneath the trees.

Abiada said visitors could also hold seminars and even stay overnight at the resort's two-story Tourism Center, where native products are also displayed for sale.

The Tourism Center, kiosks, and the unfinished cottages are all made of native materials. The kiosks line both sides of the stream, from near the waterfall upstream down to the

lower level where a big man-made pool is located. The latter is a favorite of visitors who want to splash and swim in the cool, spring water.

Abiada said they would continue developing the Balantac Resort. In fact, he added, they plan to put up a camping site on a grassy clearing near the trees and across the stream, to put up a "green area" planted with vegetables and ornamental plants, and to construct a 1.5-km pathway leading to two unexplored caves and a hot spring.

"All these will help in the promotion of environmental awareness to our visitors," he said, referring to their planned projects.

The problem, however, is funding for the next phases of their development project. "We already spent a part of the association's money during the first phase of the project and we need to replenish that first before we can finance other projects," he said.

Abiada, however, made it clear that the RCRMA is managing the mountain resort not just for income but more importantly, to preserve and protect the environment. He emphasized that natural resources are perishable and even irreplaceable once lost that they would do

their best to safeguard the place.

The venture

The RCRMA was organized in 2000 with 76 members, both males and females, coming from Sitio Rawis, Barangay Guirang, Basey town. Their first venture, he said, was a 246-hectare agro-forestry project in Rawis. They had a coffee plantation and had availed of the government's carabao dispersal program.

According to Abiada, it was in the 1960s or 1970s when logging firms were still operating in the area that the Balantac Resort was initially developed as a mountain resort where

boasts of unspoiled and exquisite stalactite and stalagmite formations.

But some residents of Sitio Rawis had decided to manage their natural resources by themselves. In a public consultation about the cave, they voted overwhelmingly against the plan to declare the cave a protected area, for this would mean that the management of the cave would fall on the government through a protected area management board.

The RCRMA now manages both the cave and the mountain resort, and they share the income derived from entrance and other fees with the municipal government.

Rawis saw a "bulalakaw" or a burning meteorite fall from the skies and soar along the Golden River before finally entering the cave. Since that incident no one dared come close to the cave until the early 1990s.

But if there's something strange inside the cave, it's about how nature was able to mold those beautiful and gleaming stalagmites and stalactites that are of different shapes and sizes.

Illuminado Duran, popularly known as Mano Lume, 59, is one of the guides available to those who want to explore the Rawis Cave. Before entering the cave, Mano Lume would first knock on the wall to announce the group's arrival. Then he would offer a sort of prayer for the "unseen dwellers" of Rawis Cave.

The first things that cave explorers would notice inside the Rawis Cave, however, are the bats. There are of two kinds of bats in the cave, the tiny bats and the larger ones. The small bats occupy some small holes on the cave ceiling while the larger ones hang upside down, also from the ceiling.

Mano Lume revealed that thousands of bats occupy another cave not far from Rawis. This bat cave was featured in a TV show, together with another nearby cave that is occupied by hundreds of snakes.

After meeting the bats, Mano Lume would lead the explorers to the underground wonders of Rawis Cave. The formations found inside the cave include a giant stalactite, a "picture frame," a statue of the Virgin Mary, a natural bathtub, and a statue of the Madonna. Other formations resemble a miniature of the rice terraces and of the Great Wall of China. There are also plenty of cave pearls inside Rawis Cave, and this shows that the cavern is in pristine condition.

Already, many people, including foreigners, have already visited Rawis Cave. Some of them said the boat ride along the snaking Golden River of Basey was already an experience by itself, and that the trek inside Rawis Cave was an ultimate experience.

The town of Basey, however, is more popular as the site of the 840-hectare Sohoton Natural Bridge National Park, which is located about 5 km upstream of Sitio Rawis.



ANOTHER breather from rising temperatures is a man-made pool in Balantac.

VEN LABRO/POI VISAYAS

logging officials could relax.

Last year, some municipal officials and RCRMA members hatched the idea of redeveloping the place.

Balantac Resort became the second eco-adventure tourism undertaking of the village association, after the Rawis Cave. The cave could be reached from the town proper of Basey by a one-hour motorboat ride along the Golden River of Basey to Sitio Rawis. Its main entrance is located just about 600 meters away from Sitio Rawis.

Years ago, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources regional office based in Tacloban City wanted the Rawis Cave to become a protected area. The cave

Sitio Rawis is located about 3 km downhill from Balantac Resort. In the 1960s until the 1980s the village had served as a campsite of one of the big logging firms operating then in Samar. Logging operations in the area ceased in 1989 when the government declared a moratorium on the cutting of trees on the whole Samar Island.

About 600 meters from the Rawis village proper is the entrance of the Rawis Cave. Despite the cave being near a logging campsite, only a few people dared explore the cave and this was already in the 1990s.

Villagers believe that supernatural beings inhabit the cave. According to some of the locals, early residents of

Drama in reality TV makes presence felt in institute

By Ma. Diosa Labiste
Iloilo City

IF "PINOY BIG BROTHER (PBB)," a reality TV show, had its teen edition, so did the annual creative writing workshop at the University of San Agustin's Fray Luis de Leon Creative Writing Institute in Iloilo City.

Nine fellows, aged 13 to 25, but the majority of them high school students, were grilled by noted writers from Western Visayas, who subjected every poem and short story they submitted to close reading and comments—some gentle, some cruel but always helpful.

As in any writing workshops, egos were crushed and years of bad English writing smashed. It was a process as stressful as joining PBB.

There were no defensive outbursts and tantrums, although one fellow was seen banging his head on the table, luckily on the cushioned edge, as his poem was being butchered. But he said his mother had warned him of a Simon Cowell among the panelists.

Write in own language

"Write in your own language. A language is an utterance of a civilization. Hiligaynon is not inferior to English," said Palanca Hall of Famer Leoncio Deriada, the lead panelist of the workshop held on May 15-19.

The workshop, now on its fourth year, aims to discover, and hone skills of writers in Western Visayas to write in English, Filipino and regional languages, such as Hiligaynon, Aklanon and Kinaraya-a.

The sponsoring agency, named after the Spanish lyric poet and theologian, wants to be a "friendly and fertile breeding ground" of local writers, said its coordinator, John Iremil Teodoro.

For budding writers, joining writing workshops is one way of recognizing their talents.

This year's fellows were chosen after they have submitted four of their best works, mostly poems, that were printed on handouts without their names to spare them of immediate shame when these dissected for style and grammar flaws.

The fellows: teen edition

The fellows were Hajar Al-Abdullah, Stephanie Keiko Enarbia and Jazelle Nufable, Ateneo de Iloilo; Lawrence Anthony Bernabe, University of the Philippines Visayas; Donna I.M. Fresnido, University of San Agustin High School; Frente Sur Meliza, SPED-Integrated School for Exceptional Children; and Arlene Mosca, Victor Robinson III and

Elsed Tobogon, University of San Agustin.

Aside from free attendance to the workshop, the fellows received transportation allowance and free lodging if they are not from Iloilo City. Of the nine, three are college students, five are in high school, and one had just finished Grade 6.

"This batch is the teen edition. Maybe we have already depleted the ranks of adult and older writers in the region," said Teodoro, also a panelist.

The other panelists were also noted for their works in regional languages of West Visayas, in which many were award-winning and published. They are Genevieve Asenjo, Isidoro Cruz and Alice Tan Gonzales.

As panelists, the four were thoughtful and nurturing even as they keenly pointed out the slips in techniques and narrowness of the writer's world.

One-line comments

On the other hand, Deriada, while steely and unforgiving, especially in his one-line comments, was well liked by the fellows because of his repertoire of anecdotes, English language boobies and tales of "aswang" and "kapre."

The last of the five-day workshops was the much-awaited part because medals and books were given away to the best works produced. The poetry contest has categories in English, Hiligaynon and Kinaraya-a.

The winning pieces were read because, as Deriada said, the poems have to be liberated from their printed form.

The occasion was also the launch of the books of two Kinaraya-a poets, Genevieve Asenjo and Maria Milagros Geremia Lachica.

Asenjo's book, "Pula ang Kulay ng Text Message," is a collection of poems in Kinaraya-a and Filipino, while Geremia-Lachica's "Ang Pagsulat... Bayi," is a book of Kinaraya-a poems with English translations.

The two were first winners of Fray Luis de Leon Creative Writing Grants established last year to inspire and encourage production of literary works in Western Visayas. The grant comes with P10,000 and the completed manuscript is published by the university with the label "Libro Agustino."

Impoverish writers

"We know very well that there is no money in writing. Writers have to work—they teach, they farm, they do PR, they sell things in the market and some even direct beauty contests in order to eat and live decently," said Teodoro.

He said the grant was a modest amount, but it would be a "force enough to make that writer produce her of his masterpieces..."

HHWWPSSP

You may not know what this stands for, but by golly, you must have an idea how good it feels to be in love. So log on to www.itzamatch.com and begin your search for that special someone. Who knows? We could soon bump into you holding hands while walking... pa sway-sway pa.

itzamatch!

Find the one.

www.itzamatch.com



Special PROJECT

93rd UP General Alumni-Faculty Homecoming & Reunion

UP: Usbong ng Pag-Asa

June 24, 2006 4 p.m. Ang Bahay ng Alumni

P. Camarines, Diliman, Quezon City



My warmest greetings to the University of the Philippines Alumni Association as you hold the UP General Alumni-Faculty Homecoming and Reunion.

Your theme, "Population and Environment," indicates that you are truly attuned to the needs of the times as you convene to discuss the impact of population and environmental issues in our national life. It also gives credence to our government's reform thrusts along the same critical issues.

As the bastion of academic freedom in the country, the University of the Philippines has always been known for its culture of educational excellence and its social commitment to breed future leaders of our country who are dedicated and progressive. As you rekindle the bonds that bind you to this great institution, be always reminded of our pivotal role to contribute to the public good and to the nation as a whole an advocacy which was instilled in each of us during our university years.

May you remain true to the ideals of your alma mater even as it is my fervent hope that you will support our vision to beat the odds and attain a better life for our people.

GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President
Republic of the Philippines



I would like to welcome you all to the Grand Alumni Homecoming and Reunion!

The Homecoming is not only a time for us to celebrate, renew old ties and reminisce about the good old days, it is also a time for us to stop and take a look at how the University is doing.

It is you, the alumni, that show us the real state of the University. The careers you have chosen, the quality of the lives you lead are partly reflections of a UP education. And looking at you all tonight, the fine roster that includes some of the best in the sciences, the arts, business, government, and the

academe, we can say that we must be doing something right.

That being said, we need to harness our collective talent and address pressing issues our nation faces today. Population and the environment are certainly matters of great concern. The continuing degradation of our natural environment, the steady depletion of natural resources, and the rise in population which means an even smaller resource allocation per person, put us all in a difficult position. Difficult, but not impossible. One thing a UP education shows us that we can find a way.

Taking up the theme of population and environment this year shows the UP alumni's commitment to this cause and with our combined efforts, we will make a difference. We have been taught to serve our nation, and so we shall.

Maraming salamat at mabuhay kayong lahat!

EMERLINDA R. ROMAN
President
University of the Philippines



Homecomings and reunions almost always evoke good memories of our lives as students - how we survived the "terrors" in the faculty of the University, how clear and clean the UP lagoon was, how fresh the air we breathed in then, how we heard daily the melodies produced by the UP Carillon and many more.

This year's homecoming theme, "Population and Environment" is the fourth of a series of population-related issues that have come to the fore. We have focused on "Population and the Quality of Life of the Filipino" (2003), "Population and Education" (2004) and "The Filipino Diaspora" (2005).

Recently, the attention of people to the world over are riveted on environment-related disasters such as the havoc that typhoon Katrina caused in the United States, the massive landslide in St. Bernard, Southern Leyte, the bird flu epidemic that beset a number of countries, and others. The Philippines is among the countries that implement environment laws aimed at reducing en-

vironmental stresses on people's lives and promoting ecosystem vitality and sound natural resource management. The University and its alumni must help the country look for solutions to such problems.

As president of the UPAA, I also enjoin you, my fellow alumni, to continue supporting our alma mater's vision of a university for the 21st century. It was through our UP education that we are now successful players in our respective fields as evident in tonight's alumni awardees. It is time that we give back to our alma mater. Let us build a legacy for future generations.

Mabuhay kayong lahat!

JAIME S. DE LOS SANTOS
President
University of the Philippines
Alumni Association



Greetings!

On the occasion of the UPAA Annual Reunion and Homecoming, we warmly welcome you into the campus where you spent a significant portion of your life earning an education and making lifetime friends and acquaintances.

Seeing the campus after as long will certainly flood you with memories - reliving your youth which is enhanced by the presence of your classmates and familiar faces.

I would like to thank the Chairpersons and members of the Homecoming and Reunion Steering Committee for making this affair truly memorable.

To your Alumni Awardees, Jubilarians and Guests, I wish you all a most enjoyable evening.

Mabuhay kayong lahat!

GLADYS S.J. TIONGCO
First Vice President & Overall Chair
UPAA Homecoming and Reunion Steering Committee



THE UPAA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

From left, Rebecca Rellosa, Atty. Gladys Tiongco, Ida Vargas, Nini Jorge, Solina Iglesias, Leon Arceo, Atty. Renato Corpuz, Prof. Marita Hernandez, Regent Jaime de los Santos, Rey Velasco, Evelina Escudero, Romeo Gecolea, Gregorio Fernandez, Ruth Carpio, Annie Guerrero, Dr. Arnon Rivera and Angelito Yniguez



STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Evelin Esendeco, Rebecca Rellosa, Sol Iglesias, President Jimmy de los Santos, Atty. Gladys Tiongco (Chair) Nini Jorge and Mari Hidalgo. Not in photo, Ida Vargas, Boots Mejia, Virginia Dandan, Marita Carag, Rene Corpuz, Ruth Carpio, Romy Gecolea, Annie Guerrero, Arnon Rivera and Leon Arceo

2006 UPAA AWARDEES

OUTSTANDING PROFESSIONAL AWARDEES



MOST DISTINGUISHED ALUMNA

Dr. Mercedes B. Concepcion, BSChE'51



LIFETIME DISTINGUISHED ACHIEVEMENT AWARDEES

Male Category
Prof. Antonio O. Mabesa, BSA'56



Female Category
Dr. Nelia P. Cortes-Maramba, MD'60



Agriculture
Dr. Arsenio N. Resurreccion, BSAE'71; MS'78



Arts & Letters
Percy J. Arañador, BS'81



Business Admin
Victor B. Valdepeñas, BSF'66; MA (Eco)'69



Education
Dr. Lina B. Diaz de Rivera, MAT'76; PhD'91



Geology
Dr. Ernesto P. Sonido, BSEM'50



Law
Atty. Andres G. Garmalan, BSJ'61; LLB'61



Medicine
Dr. Alberto Victor D.G. Romualdez, Jr., MD'65



Nursing
Dr. Carmencita Matias-Abaquin, GN'62; BSN'69; MN'75; PhD'00



Public Admin
Gov. Salvacion Zaldivar-Perez, AA'54; AB'57; BSpS'58



Public Health
Dr. Nina G. Barzaga, BSpH'75; MD'79

COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARDEES



National Level
Engr. Francis Chua (Ang C. Biao), BSIE'72



Visayas
Atty. Romeo P. Gerochi, BS'71



UPAA SERVICE AWARDEE
Ms. Olivia Rocha-Aliga, BM'74



UPAA PRESIDENTIAL AWARDEE
Amb. Lauro L. Baja, Jr., BSJ'60; LLB'60



Male Category
Donald K. Ngwe, BS (Eco)'06 summa cum laude



Female Category
Cherrys O. Abrigo, BSChE'06 magna cum laude

OUTSTANDING ALUMNI CHAPTER AWARDEE

UPV Food Technologists Alumni Association

Thank you to all to our sponsors



UP MBA Alumni Society, Inc.



**SMART
Buddy**

Here's the most affordable

Colored Screen cellphone from Nokia!

**The Nokia 1600
for only
\$49.90**

NOKIA 1600
Colored Screen
Mp3 and Polyphonic
Ringtones
Talking Alarm Clock

Get your NOKIA handsets from any SMART Wireless Center now!

- All original battery and accessories
- 15-day replacement warranty
- 12-month service warranty

For questions, comments, or concerns, you may call the SMART Hotline at 888-1111, *888 using your SMART cellphone; the SMART Corporate Hotline at #888; send a text message to 888 (Standard rate in excess of the FREE TEXT allocation applies); visit our website at www.smart.com.jb, or visit the SMART Wireless Center nearest you.

NOKIA
Connecting People

SMART
Simply Amazing!



A plus METRO

Editor Ester G. Dipasupil

Text us your feedback: inquirer.met.name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart) E-mail: pr_metro@inquirer.com.ph

WHAT'S INSIDE



Manila's 'redeveloped' parks now open to public /A20

Slain lawyer's husband was killers' target /A20

UP students protest Marines presence in QC campus /A20

Police raid 5 stores selling smuggled floor tiles /A20

Customs seizes P19-M cargo in Metro, N. Luzon

Participation of insiders eyed

By Leila B. Salaverria

BUREAU OF CUSTOMS AGENTS LAST WEEK seized some P19 million worth of misdeclared used clothing, frozen pork cuts and a shipment of woven fabrics that were illegally diverted from its intended destinations.

The shipment of used clothing, consigned to Hangcor General Merchandise Corp., arrived at the Manila International Container Port (MICP) from Hong Kong. It was placed in two 40-foot container vans and was declared as a shipment of household tools and compact disc players.

The shipment was intercepted along the Marcos Highway in Benguet. It was believed to be on its way to Baguio City, which has become known for its "ukay ukay" or second-hand clothing stores.

The importation of used clothing is prohibited under Philippine laws.

Customs Commissioner Napoleon Morales yesterday said that the release of questionable shipments from the bureau's custody indicated that some customs personnel could be involved in the illegal activity.

Morales also said he had no problem with questionable shipments being apprehended after they leave the bureau's premises because this way, the BOC would be able to determine who among its personnel were involved in releasing the said shipments.

He said shipments that had been released are usually covered by papers that bear the signatures of the examiners, appraisers and other customs personnel, which means it would be easier to identify those behind the illegal activity.

The shipment of frozen prime pork cuts was also seized at the MICP. The shipment was declared as frozen squid, but an inspection conducted later showed it contained frozen pork. The BOC said that apart from being misdeclared, the pork shipment was not covered by a permit from the Bureau of Animal Industry.

The P3 million worth of frozen pork was consigned to Vonrik Trading and came from China.

Customs personnel also intercepted a 40-foot container of woven fabrics that was allegedly illegally diverted from its intended destination in Navotas.

According to the BOC, the shipment that had arrived at the Port of Manila was supposed to be brought to a Navotas warehouse. However, customs investigators intercepted it along the North Luzon Expressway.

Customs personnel have not yet determined where the shipment would be taken.

The shipment, worth P6 million, came from China. It was consigned to the Philippine Bonded Warehouse Services Inc.

Munti pays tribute to RP's 1st drug-free community

By Jocelyn R. Uy

ONE DOWN, 200 MORE TO GO.

As part of its all-out war against illegal drugs, the Muntinlupa government will recognize today a small neighborhood in Barangay Alabang, the first community in the country to be declared drug-free, City Hall announced yesterday.

A billboard declaring it a drug-free area will be hung at the entrance of the Highway Homes Subdivision, a village composed of 28 households.

Julie Tarrayo, an official of the Drug Abuse Prevention and Control Office, the city government's anti-illegal drugs arm, said it took them two months to confirm that the community was free from illegal drugs.

She said their office studied the profile of the community and its residents, mapped out the area and identified the drug-free homes. Drug users identified in the community were

sent to a rehabilitation center before the community was declared drug-free.

DAPCO officials also conducted seminars for village residents and officers, in addition to creating an assessment team that would help the local government monitor and maintain the community's status as a drug-free area.

However, Tarrayo said the assessment team would still need to undergo rigorous training, particularly on intelligence gathering.

Mayor Jaime Fresnedi will lead the awarding of a plaque and the posting of the billboard today to the community, with the help of officials from the Dangerous Drugs Board, Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency, the Anti-Illegal Drugs Special Operation Task Force and the officials of Barangay Alabang.

Fresnedi, however, vowed to make the rest of the city's 200 communities, spread throughout nine barangays, also free from drugs.



appliance CENTER

our name is your guarantee



0%

Interest

on 3, 6, 12-month installment plan*
for a minimum purchase of P3,000.
*on selected items




Techno Craze

WIDER GADGETS SELECTION



— THE —

PODIUM

June 30

Visit our website: <http://www.smappliance.com>

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0529, Series of 2005

MAJOR CREDIT cards accepted

SM CITY NORTH EDSA 9279335 • NORTH EDSA ANNEX 9276578 • NORTH EDSA BASEMENT 9272850 • SM MAKATI 8161178 • HARRISON PLAZA 5248239 • SM CUBAO 9111159 • SM MEGAMALL 9335076 • SM CENTERPOINT 7150534 • SM SOUTH MALL 8003512 • SM CITY BACOR (046) 4170258 • SM CITY FAIRVIEW 4178795 • SM CITY CEBU (032) 2310132 • SM DELGADO (033) 3373102 • SM CITY MANILA 5238593 • SM CITY PAMPANGA (045) 9616901 • SUCAT 8297346 • SM CITY ILOILO (033) 320-6355 • SM CITY DAVAO (082) 2077064 • ROCKWELL 8981519 • PODIUM 6871215 • SM CITY DICTAN 7779295 • SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO (088) 8592501 • SM CITY LUCENA (088) 8592501 • SM CITY DASMARINAS (049) 423319 • ELIZABETH MALL (032) 2503678 (032) 2503681 • BATANGAS 8887735 • SM CITY SAN LAZARO 7812773 • SM CITY VALENZUELA 2919973 • SM MCLIND 046-4743011-14 • V-MALL 7251011 • STA. ROSA 049-5344550 • SM CITY BAGUIO (074) 6107895 • SM CITY CLARK (045) 8259812 • SM MALL OF ASIA 6660409

WANT TO TRY AN AFFORDABLE WAY TO SEND MONEY ABROAD?



FAST, RELIABLE, WORLDWIDE MONEY TRANSFER

With the Western Union SEND-MONEY-ABROAD Service, you can send money for as low as \$14*. No additional charges and deductions to your receiver. What you send is what they get.

*For every transaction up to \$200. Available for USA, Canada, United Arab Emirates, India, Australia, China, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, Singapore, Brunei. In addition to transfer fees, Western Union also earns from the exchange of currencies. Call 888-1200 (Metro Manila), 1-800-1-888-1200 (free calls outside Metro Manila), or text 0917-888-1200 for more information.

Manila's 'redeveloped' parks now open to public

By Tina G. Santos

INSTEAD OF HANGING OUT IN malls on weekends, Manila residents can now take their families to three parks which recently underwent extensive renovation after decades of neglect.

The parks are: the Remedios Circle at the Remedios Rotunda, Plaza Salamanca at the corner of T. M. Kalaw and Taft Avenue and Plaza Rueda, located in the southeast corner of Taft Avenue, General Luna and United Nations Avenue.

Named after the Nuestra Señora delos Remedios (Our Lady of Healing) whose image is enshrined in the parish church of Malate, the Remedios Circle had virtually become a no-man's land.

"The park used to be the lair of prostitutes, vagrants and snatchers who often victimized pedestrians and promenaders," said a resident of the once upscale and tranquil residential area that has evolved into a restaurant and fashion row.

During the Spanish era, the Remedios Rotunda had a circular fountain surrounded by nipa-roofed houses and banana

orchards.

Prior to its renovation, huge plant boxes were scattered around an elevated concrete structure that stood in the center of the park. "We removed an elevated open space so people will not only see its charm but so we also maximize the use of the space," city engineer Armand Andres said.

The plant boxes were also replaced by landscaped pocket gardens around the circle. Benches were set up in the park while more lights were installed to discourage criminals from hanging out in the area. City officials and residents will gather in the area for a thanksgiving Mass at 7 a.m. today to kick off the celebration of the 435th Araw ng Maynila.

Plaza Salamanca, on the other hand, was named after Dr. Olivia Salamanca, one of the first Filipino women doctors. The third park, Plaza Rueda, was named in honor of Spanish poet Salvador Rueda who visited Manila in 1915. The two parks, with their landscaped grounds, benches and lights, now resemble pocket parks found in exclusive villages in Metro Manila, according to Manila Mayor Lito Atienza.



MALATE habitués will hardly recognize the Remedios Circle after renovations were introduced in the popular landmark.

RODEL ROTON

Slain lawyer's husband killers' target

By DJ Yap

THE REAL TARGET OF ARMED MEN who killed a woman lawyer and the pastor who had tried to save her could have been the victim's husband.

Evelyn Guballa, who was shot dead with Pastor Joselito Fidel in front of a church on Wednesday night, was married to Arnel Guballa, a ranking official of the Bureau of Internal Revenue who

investigates tax fraud cases, according to the police. Quezon City investigators, however, said they were also looking into "many other angles," and remained tight-lipped about the probe.

Supt. Procopio Lipana, QC Police District criminal investigation division chief, said his men had interviewed Arnel, who heads the BIR's National Investigation Division which monitors persons suspected to be violating the

National Internal Revenue Code. The office also coordinates with the Special Investigation Division on intelligence operations, including those involving smuggling, syndicated crimes and the use of false BIR forms.

Lipana, however, refused to divulge the details of the investigation. He said it was too early to make any conclusions, though he admitted that police were considering the possibility that

the BIR official was the target. "It's hard to speculate at this point. We are looking into many other angles," he said.

Evelyn was gunned down Wednesday evening by two men after a Bible study session at the Full Gospel Pentecostal Church. Fidel died on the spot when he tried to shield her with his body. Guballa was rushed to the hospital, but she died before she could be treated, police said.

METROBRIEFS

5 stores selling tiles raided

POLICE raided yesterday at five stores in Metro Manila suspected of selling smuggled floor tiles. Agents of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group which conducted the operation said the importation of the tiles had defrauded the government of P52 million in unpaid taxes. Simultaneous raids were carried out on the El Mina Floor Center, SJA Floor Center, Commonwealth Floor and Libis Floor Center, all in Quezon City and the Cyrus Floor Center in Caloocan City. Quoting intelligence information from the Bureau of Customs, the police said investigation showed the floor tiles were illegally imported from China. "Further investigation by CIDG investigators likewise confirmed other illegal transactions committed in cahoots with Customs personnel, brokers and bank personnel from the period October 2005 till February 2006," the police said. "We have search warrants, and we want to seize documents and computer files to show validity of their importation. Our intelligence and investigation conclude that these were all smuggled," said Supt. Benjamin de los Santos, chief of the CIDG's anti-smuggling unit.

Luige A. del Puerto

Brillante vs Binay

A POLITICAL rival of Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay has accused the official of using "strong arm tactics" to discourage residents from participating in the signature drive initiated by the Sigaw ng Bayan, a group pushing for charter change. In a statement issued Thursday, Bobby Brillante, former Makati vice mayor, said, "We are deeply concerned over the extent to which Binay would go, even to the point of employing Gestapo-like tactics to prevent people from supporting constitutional change." Brillante said Binay was using Department of Public Safety enforcers "as his private army to carry out acts of harassment and intimidation to dissuade residents from signing up." The mayor, denied Brillante's claims, saying he even allowed Sigaw ng Bayan to hold a motorcade in the city around three months ago to publicize their advocacy. "So what harassment are they talking about?" Binay said. "This is the problem of the administration's local coordinators who do not know how to cover up their failure in Makat," the mayor added.

Tarra V. Quismundo

INVITATION TO BID

The AFP Retirement and Separation Benefits System (RSBS) invites interested parties to purchase by way of sealed bids the following properties on cash or term basis (minimum 30% down payment and 16% interest rate per annum, maximum of 7 years to pay):

Item No.	Description	Location	Minimum / Floor Price
06-1	259.7 sqm residential lot	No. 12 Rimas St., Proj 2, Q.C.	P 2,428,195.00
06-2	4 residential lots 300 sqm each	Bgy Pimienta, Umingan, Pangasinan	P 455,855.00
06-3	2 residential lots 500 sqm each	Bgy Prado, Umingan, Pangasinan	P 243,600.00
06-4	9,448 sqm Industrial Lot	Bulacan Agro Industrial Subdivision Calumpit, Bulacan	P 30,516,700.00
06-5	367 sqm residential lot	L12, B6, Snra. De la Paz Subd. Sumulong, Antipolo	P 892,500.00
06-6	House & Lot F/A 152 sqm L/A 208 sqm	L22, B24, Phase II, Soldier's Hill Subd., Muntinlupa City	P 707,200.00
06-7	3,000 sqm residential lot 13,000 sqm agri lot	Bgy. Canimog, Romblon, Romblon	P 1,538,310.00
06-8	House & Lot F/A 42 sqm L/A 120 sqm	L45 & 47, B4, Alpha Street Northmatrixville Subd., Caloocan	P 509,320.00
06-9	322 sqm residential lot	L70, B1-A Diamond Heights Victoria Homes, Muntinlupa City	P 547,400.00
06-10	House & Lot F/A 142 sqm L/A 134 sqm	Sapang Palay, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan	P 346,239.21
06-11	House & Lot F/A 138 sqm L/A 143 sqm	B7, L3, North Matrixville, Camarin Rd., Caloocan City	P 963,007.50
06-12	House & Lot F/A 618.98 sqm L/A 2,607 sqm	29 Sunflower Dr, Beverly Hills, Taytay, Rizal	P 7,081,592.76
06-14	294 sqm Residential Lot	B3, L8, Filiinvest, Bgy Silangan, Capitol, Quezon City	P 1,374,450.00
06-15	278,369 sqm raw land with CARP Exemption	Bgy Sulpok, Tanauan, Batangas	P 350.00 / sqm
06-16	188,351 sqm raw land with CARP Exemption	Bgy Malaking Pulo, Tanauan, Batangas	P 350.00 / sqm
06-17	106,073 sqm raw land with CARP Exemption	Bgy Dona Jacoba, Tanauan, Batangas	P 350.00 / sqm
06-18	35,138 sqm raw land with CARP Exemption	Bgy Suplang, Tanauan, Batangas	P 350.00 / sqm
06-19	450,000 sqm raw land with DAR Conversion	Bgy Batas, Silang, Cavite (beside Riviera Golf & Sports Club)	P 800.00 / sqm
06-20	450,162 sqm raw land with DAR Conversion	Bgy Batas, Silang, Cavite (beside Riviera Golf & Sports Club)	P 800.00 / sqm
06-21	132,189 sqm residential raw land	Bgy Mapalad, Sta. Rosa, Nueva Ecija (near Fort Magsaysay)	P 400 / sqm
06-22	17,996 sqm commercial lot	Acharon Blvd., General Santos City	P 17,000.00 / sqm
06-23	2,584 sqm commercial lot	Acharon Blvd., General Santos City	P 17,000.00 / sqm
06-24	5,065 sqm commercial lot	Acharon Blvd., General Santos City	P 17,000.00 / sqm
06-25	6,465 sqm commercial lot	Acharon Blvd., General Santos City	P 17,000.00 / sqm
06-26	2,291 sqm commercial lot (not contiguous)	Acharon Blvd., General Santos City	P 15,000.00 / sqm

Interested bidders may obtain bidding documents starting June 26, 2006 upon payment of non-refundable fee of P500.00 from the Property Management Office, 3/F, RSBS Bldg., Camp Aguinaldo, Q.C.

A Pre-Bidding Conference is scheduled on July 5, 2006 at 10:00 AM, Central Meeting Room A, RSBS, Camp Aguinaldo, Q.C.

Bids will be opened in the presence of bidders or their representatives on July 10, 2006 at 10:00 AM at the Central Meeting Room A, RSBS, Camp Aguinaldo, Q.C.

For further inquiries, you can call MS. LIZA HIZON or MR. DARWIN MANZANO at telephone numbers 9124718 or 9114071 local 249.

(PDI - June 24, 25 & 26 2006)

Why blame businesses for giving to the NPA?

THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD not blame business establishments for paying "revolutionary taxes" to the New People's Army (NPA) because it cannot protect them.

Businesses and individuals who refused to give in to the extortion found their lives miserable. Their facilities were burned to the ground. In many cases, rich people who allegedly didn't give in to the pressure were killed.

Many years ago, the company that owns Bachelor buses plying several Mindanao routes almost went bankrupt. The company would not give in to the rebel demand for payment of revolutionary taxes. Almost every week, a Bachelor bus was burned.

The military and police were nowhere around whenever a Bachelor bus was razed. It came to a point where only a few Bachelor buses were running on the road. But now Bachelor buses are left alone to ply their routes. People surmise the company now pays revolutionary taxes to the

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo



communists. The Bachelor bus company is just a small business. Big businesses are big supporters of the NPA.

In Mindanao, where I come from, sources say Globe and Smart, the country's two largest telecommunications firms, allegedly give hundreds of millions every year to the NPA.

Politicians I've talked with, who asked that they be not identified, admitted they gave money to the NPA so they could campaign in rebel-infested areas.

So why should the government go only after firms and private individuals who give to the NPA? Why not include politicians who also contribute to the NPA?

Manila's 435th year marked today

By Tina G. Santos and Margaux C. Ortiz

MANILA ADDS YET ANOTHER YEAR to its colorful history as it celebrates its 435th founding anniversary today.

Recognizing the importance of the date, President Macapagal-Arroyo has declared June 24 a special non-working holiday in the city.

Officials have scheduled day-long activities to mark the occasion, starting with a thanksgiving Mass to be held at the Remedios Circle at 7 a.m.

This will be followed by wreath-laying ceremonies at the tomb of Miguel Lopez de Legaspi in San Agustin Church in Intramuros and at the Rajah Sulayman Monument in Malate.

Both lanes of Roxas Boulevard, from Quirino Avenue to Pedro Gil, would be closed to traffic to give way to more festivities from 3 p.m. to 12 midnight, to be capped by a grand fireworks display. As a special treat, the entrance fee at the Manila Zoo would be waived for city residents.

To ensure that the celebration would be orderly, the chief of the Manila Police District has ordered the deployment of additional men and undercover intelligence officers in the city's key areas.



UP STUDENTS stage a protest in front of the Vanguard office in Diliman, Quezon City against the reported presence of Marines on the campus. RAFFY LERMA

UP students protest Marines presence inside QC campus

By Alcuin Papa

MILITANT STUDENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY of the Philippines in Diliman, Quezon City, condemned yesterday the presence of around 20 members of the Philippine Marines inside its campus.

Around 200 students, faculty, and members of the UP community held a demonstration in front of the UP Department of Military Science and Tactics (DMST) compound inside the Diliman campus to condemn the presence of the Marines.

"Outright political repression is

practically knocking on our doors," said Isa Artajo, chair of the Student Alliance for the Advancement of Nationalism and Democracy in UP (STAND-UP).

The militant youth group Anakbayan also expressed concern over the deployment of the Marines inside the campus. The group said it had received a report that the Marines would replace the Special Security Brigade in charge of maintaining "peace and order" inside the campus. An active military presence in the UP portrays a twisted definition of "campus security," it added.

FBI arrests 7 linked to attack on Sears Tower



CHICAGO'S Sears Tower, the world's third tallest building.

MIAMI—FBI AGENTS HAVE ARRESTED AT least seven people in Miami who reportedly were plotting to attack the Sears Tower in Chicago, the world's third tallest building, officials and news reports said.

The arrests on Thursday by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, state and local authorities were "part of an ongoing investigation into a terrorist-related matter," the US attorney's office in Miami said in a statement.

Media reports citing unnamed officials said five US citizens and two foreigners, one of them Haitian, were arrested for plotting to attack the 110-story, 442-meter Sears Tower, as well as buildings in Miami.

Another person was arrested in Atlanta, according to television reports.

ABC television said the group had been infiltrated by an FBI agent posing as an Islamic radical.

"The individuals arrested posed no immediate threat to our community," the US attorney statement said.

Earlier, FBI director Robert Mueller told CNN television that operations were still taking place.

"I can tell you that we do have an ongoing operation in Miami. We are conducting a number of arrests and searches and we'll have

more about that when the operation is concluded, probably (Friday) morning," Mueller said.

"Because it's an ongoing operation, I really can't get into details. But whenever we undertake an operation like this, we would not do it without the approval of a judge. We've got search warrants and arrest warrants and the like," Mueller said.

The US Department of Justice was planning to announce details of the plot at a press conference Friday.

The arrests took place in Liberty City, a poor neighborhood north of Miami, according to local and national media.

Residents said that the men who were arrested appeared to be part of a group of at least a dozen people, sleeping in a warehouse, dressing in military-like clothing and doing exercises.

CNN late Wednesday interviewed in Liberty City a member of the organization.

Brother Cory, as the black man with dreadlocks called himself, said he belonged to "Seas of David," repeatedly denying it was a terrorist group or that it had any ties to al-Qaida.

"We are not terrorists... We study and believe in the word of god. This is a place where we worship," Cory said.

Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF ISABELA
Iligan
OFFICE OF THE BIDS & AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY & TO BID

The Provincial Government of Isabela, through its Bids & Awards Committee (BAC), invites contractors registered with and classified by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) to apply for eligibility and if found eligible, to bid for the hereunder contract:

Name/Ref.	Location	ABC	Contract Duration
01-Construction of Decaying Vault	GFNDSMH, Iligan, Isabela	P334.414.29	30 calendar days
02-Construction of Decaying Vault	Casuyan District Hospital, Casuyan City, Isabela	P334.414.29	30 calendar days
03-Construction of Decaying Vault	Echague District Hospital, Echague, Isabela	P334.414.29	30 calendar days
04-Construction of Decaying Vault	Manuel A. Roxas District Hosp., Roxas, Isabela	P334.414.29	30 calendar days
05-Construction of Decaying Vault	Milagres District Hospital, Cagayan, Isabela	P334.414.29	30 calendar days

All particulars relative to the eligibility, bid evaluation, and award of contract shall be governed by the provisions of R.A. 9184, otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

SCHEDULE OF BIDDING ACTIVITIES

BAC ACTIVITIES	SCHEDULE
1. Receipt from prospective bidders of Letters of Intent (LOI) including application for eligibility	June 26-30, 2006 at the BAC Secretariat Office, Capitol, Iligan, Isabela
2. Issuance of Eligibility Forms	July 3, 2006 at the BAC Secretariat Office
3. Receipt of Eligibility Requirements	July 4-7, 2006 at the BAC Secretariat Office
4. Notice of Results of Eligibility Check	July 12, 2006 at the BAC Secretariat Office
5. Issuance of Bid Documents	July 13-18, 2006 at the BAC Secretariat Office
6. Pre-Bid Conference	July 19, 2006, 10:00 a.m. at the PGO Main Conference Hall, Capitol, Iligan, Isabela
7. Receipt and Opening of Bids	July 31, 2006, 10:00 a.m. at the PGO Main Conference Hall, Capitol, Iligan, Isabela

Complete set of bid documents may be acquired from the BAC Secretariat Office, Capitol, Iligan, Isabela, by the eligible suppliers/dealers after payment of non-refundable Bidding fee of P1p 3,000.00 at the Provincial Treasurer's Office.

The Provincial Government of Isabela reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any required formality and award the contract to any bidder whose proposal has been stated by the BAC as the most advantageous to the Provincial Government and the right to confiscate the bid bond and/or pursue appropriate legal action should the winning bidder refuse to accept the award.

Further, the Provincial Government assumes no obligations whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidder for any expense or loss that they may incur in participating in this undertaking, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) MA. THERESA-ARANETA FLORES
Provincial Administrator & BAC Chairperson

(PDI-June 18, 24 & 25, 2006)

6 terrorists, cop killed in Saudi shootout

RIYADH—SIX ALLEGED MEMBERS OF THE al-Qaida terror network and one policeman were killed early Friday in a shootout in a residential district of Riyadh, the Saudi interior ministry announced.

A seventh al-Qaida suspect was wounded and captured in the dawn shootout in the Al-Nakhil neighborhood of the Saudi capital, a ministry spokesperson said in a statement, adding that other members of the security service were wounded.

"The security forces at dawn Friday pursued seven (...) members of the 'deviant minority' to a house in the Al-Nakhil district of

Riyadh (...) where they suddenly came under sustained automatic weapons fire," the spokesperson said.

The police "then replied and managed to take control of the situation quickly, killing six of them, wounding and capturing the seventh," he said.

"A member of the security forces was killed and others were wounded in the operation."

The term "deviant minority" is used in Saudi officialdom to designate the local branch of al-Qaida, responsible for a wave of violence that has shaken the oil-rich kingdom since May 2003.

One of the policemen cordoning off the

area where the clash took place told AFP: "The group was preparing a terrorist operation and its members were being tailed on the basis of intelligence service information."

Residents of Al-Nakhil told AFP the clash started shortly before 2:30 a.m. (2330 GMT Thursday) around a villa.

"Some armed men who had barricaded themselves in the villa tried to escape but the security forces fired at them, destroying their car," said one witness.

Several ambulances sped to the scene, evacuating the wounded, the residents said. The shooting lasted about half an hour.

25 executed gangland style in Iraq

BAGHDAD, IRAQ—AT LEAST 25 people have been executed gangland-style in Iraq's third-largest city this week, with residents gunned down in ones and twos and bodies found scattered throughout Mosul.

Elsewhere, five US troops were killed in operations south and west of Baghdad, the US military said Thursday, and police stormed a farm and freed 17 victims of a factory kidnapping.

Mosul, 362 km northwest of Baghdad, has a mixed Kurdish and Sunni Arab population and a tradition of bad blood. The Kurds, who are largely Sunni Muslim but not Arab, have formed a prosperous autonomous region nearby after decades of oppression and mass killings under the Sunni Arab minority that ran Iraq until Saddam Hussein was ousted three years ago.

Police said they were not sure if the attacks were carried out by the Sunni Arab-led insurgency, common criminals or sectarian death squads. Increasing numbers of Iraqi deaths over the past months have been attributed to revenge killings carried out by Shiite-backed militia organizations or Sunni Arabs who have banded together in retribution.

The outburst of killings was first reported Tuesday morning when police found the bodies of a husband and wife—both Kurds—shot to death in eastern Mosul, according to police Capt. Ahmed Khalil. Before the day was out, 10 people were either killed in shootings or found dead.



COOL SHOWER

Elizabeth Monsef, 6, cools off by running through the fountains at Town Plaza Park in Los Gatos, Calif., as temperatures reached the high 90s on June 22. Hot and dry conditions are expected across the San Francisco and Monterey Bay regions through the weekend.

Poll: Westerners, Muslims consider each other repulsive

WASHINGTON — WESTERNERS view Muslims as fanatical, violent and intolerant while Muslims in the Middle East and Asia generally view Westerners as immoral, selfish and greedy, according to a new poll released Thursday.

"After a year marked by riots over cartoon portrayals of Mohammed, a major terrorist attack in London, and continuing wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, most Muslims and Westerners are convinced that relations between them are generally bad these days," a report on the poll by the Pew Global Attitudes Project said.

In one of the survey's most striking findings, majorities in Egypt, Indonesia, Jordan and Turkey said they do not believe that Arabs carried out the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks on the United States.

The percentage of Turks who hold that view has increased from 43 percent in 2002 to 59 percent currently, according to the Pew survey, which also found that 56 percent of British Muslims share that belief.

The poll found that Germans and Spaniards have much more negative views of both Muslims and Arabs than do the French,

British or Americans.

"Even in the wake of the tumultuous events of the past year, solid majorities in France, Britain and the US retain overall favorable opinions of Muslims," Pew said.

Roughly eight in ten Spanish and Germans associate Muslims with being fanatical, it added.

The report said that nothing highlights the divide between Muslims and the West more than their response last winter to the uproar over cartoon depictions of the prophet Muhammad that were published in a Danish newspaper.

Thaksin party faces vote fraud charges



THAKSIN

BANGKOK—THAI PRIME MINISTER Thaksin Shinawatra faced a new threat to his rule Friday, as prosecutors considered filing vote fraud charges against his party that could lead to its dissolution.

The Election Commission late Thursday ruled that Thaksin's party violated two laws in the campaigning for elections held on April 2 that have since been invalidated.

A panel of prosecutors was set to meet later in the day to decide whether to bring the case against Thaksin's party, which has run the country for the last five years, to the Constitutional Court.

If found guilty, the court could disband the party and bar Thaksin

from forming a new one for five years—a move analysts said could plunge Thailand's young democracy back into turmoil.

"It would send Thai politics further into a tailspin," political analyst Thitinan Pongsudhirak said.

Thaksin, 56, earlier this year survived months of mass street protests demanding his resignation over claims that the billionaire politician used his office to enrich his business empire.

Despite the demonstrations in Bangkok, his popularity in rural Thailand delivered his party a clear victory in the April 2 elections that he called to end the protests.

But an opposition boycott of the polls failed to produce a par-

liament, forcing Thaksin to temporarily step aside.

He returned to his job last month after the courts invalidated the elections and cleared the way for new polls tentatively set for Oct. 15.

The charges accuse Thaksin's Thai Rak Thai (Thais Love Thais) party of illegally financing fringe groups to contest the April 2 polls in a bid to make the elections look more legitimate after the boycott.

TRT legal adviser Kudab Saikrachang said the party was already preparing to defend itself before the court.

"I am confident that Thai Rak Thai hasn't done anything illegal," he said.

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Quezon City

NOTICE OF SALE THRU AUCTION/SMDP

The NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY (NFA) wishes to announce to all interested Farmer's Organizations (FO's), Retailers and other interested NFA licensed wholesalers, millers that NFA will be accepting sealed offers for the Sale thru Auction/SMDP of 62,200 MT More or Less 15% broken Imported Vietnam Rice 2006 Arrivals and 2,843 MT 15% broken Imported Vietnam Rice 2005 Arrivals stored in Davao, Cebu, NCR Albay and Batangas warehouses as follows:

LOCATION	VOLUME	VARIETY	INDICATIVE PRICE
Cebu	5,860 MT	15% Broken Vietnam Rice 2006 Arrivals	P 1,050.00/bg
Davao	6,500 MT	-do-	P 1,050.00/bg
NCR	46,000 MT	-do-	P 1,050.00/bg
Albay	2,250 MT	-do-	P 1,050.00/bg
Batangas	2,843 MT	15% Broken Vietnam Rice 2005 Arrivals	P 975.00/bg

The pre-Auction conference and SMDP proper shall be conducted simultaneously in Manila (for NCR, Albay and Batangas stocks) Cebu City and Davao City at 2:00 p.m. on the following dates:

Venue	Contact Person	Pre-Auction Conference	Auction Proper
NFA Cebu Office Gov. M. Cuenca Ave. Banilad, Cebu City (for Visayas and Reg IX bidders)	Mr. Raul Chong Tel. # (032) 232-1939 (032) 232-6832	June 27 July 3	June 29, 2006 July 5, 2006
NFA Davao Office Sta. Ana Ave., Davao City (for Mindanao bidders)	Ms. Dianne Silva Tel. # (083) 554-3200 (082) 227-4166	June 27 July 3	June 29, 2006 July 5, 2006
FDC, FTI Compound Taguig, Metro Manila (for Luzon bidders)	Ms. Espio Tecson Tel. # 712-1708 712-1572	June 27 July 3	June 29, 2006 July 5, 2006

All interested bidders/buyers are required to submit the following documents:

- Original and xerox copy of NFA license (retailing, wholesaling and/or milling).
- In case of representative, a duly notarized authorization from the owner, partner, chairman or president that he or she is authorized to represent the business entity in the pre-SMDP and SMDP proper and all activities thereto.
- Offer must be accompanied by Bid Bond equivalent to 10% of the volume bid in the form of Cashier's or Manager's check payable to NFA issued by a reputable commercial bank in Metro Manila.

Interested bidders may secure the Terms and Conditions starting June 27, 2006 at the aforementioned venues from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. For any inquiries, interested bidders may call the above-mentioned contact persons.

Bid documents will be available during the pre-SMDP conference to qualified bidders/offers upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P1,000.00 for FO's/retailers and P2,000.00 for other interested bidders (wholesalers/millers).

The National Food Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any formality thereof, and to accept only such bids that are advantageous to the Agency.

(Sgd.) CONRADO DL. IBANEZ
Assistant Administrator and
Chairman, Disposition Committee

(PDI - June 24 & 25, 2006)

The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

US: N. Korea will pay a cost for launch

But Washington rules out shooting Pyongyang test missile out of the sky

WASHINGTON—THE US SUGGESTED IT HAS limited ability to shoot a North Korean missile out of the sky and spurned suggestions of a preemptive strike on the ground. Still, it warned the Koreans would pay a cost for a missile launch.

The US missile defense system, which now includes about a dozen interceptor missiles in Alaska and California and on some Navy ships, has suffered multiple test failures since President George W. Bush ordered the Reagan-era program accelerated in early 2001.

Missile defense experts disagree on current US ability to destroy a long-range missile once it is fired. But they seemed in agreement that shooting at it—and missing—would be a huge embarrassment.

A better solution, said Bush's national security adviser, Stephen

Hadley, was for the North Koreans to "give it up and not launch" the missile that the US believes is being fueled and prepared. "We think diplomacy is the right answer and that is what we are pursuing," he said Thursday.

Tensions persisted over North Korea's apparent preparations to test-fire a Taepodong-2 missile amid disagreements over US military options for responding. The missile, with a believed range of up to 15,000 km, is potentially capable of reaching the mainland United States.

Pentagon officials said they

were prepared to use the nation's missile defense system if needed.

Asked under what circumstances it would be used against a North Korean missile, Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld said Thursday, "The president would make a decision with respect to the nature of the launch, whether it was threatening to the territory of the United States or not, and the likely threat that it would pose."

Rumsfeld expressed no sense of alarm about the missile situation. "It's clear: All the intelligence suggests they have been making

preparations for a launch of a missile from the area of Taepo Dong for some days now. There's a lot we know and a lot we don't know. So we'll just have to see."

The US missile defense program is a downscaled land-and-sea version of a global defense network first proposed by Reagan that was dubbed "Star Wars" by critics. Interceptor missiles—linked to a network of satellites, radar, computers and command centers—are designed to strike and destroy incoming ballistic missiles.

The Pentagon says the system

is capable of defending against a limited number of missiles in an emergency—such as a North Korean attack. More than \$100 billion (euro80 billion) has been spent on the program since 1983, including \$7.8 billion (euro6.2 billion) authorized for the current fiscal year.

In the most recent test, a Navy ship late last month successfully shot down a long-range missile in its final seconds of flight. Before a successful test in the Pacific in December 2005, interceptor tests had failed five of 11 times. AP

Cell phone users may draw lightning

LONDON—PEOPLE SHOULD NOT use mobile phones outdoors during thunderstorms because of the risk of being struck by lightning, doctors said on Friday.

They reported the case of a 15-year-old girl who was using her phone in a park when she was hit during a storm. Although she was revived, she suffered persistent health problems and was using a wheelchair a year after the accident.

"This rare phenomenon is a public health issue, and education is necessary to highlight the risk of

using mobile phones outdoors during stormy weather to prevent future fatal consequences from lightning strike injuries," said Swinda Esprit, a doctor at Northwick Park Hospital in England.

Esprit and other doctors at the hospital added in a letter to the British Medical Journal that usually when someone is struck by lightning, the high resistance of the skin conducts the flash over the body in what is known as a flashover.

But if a metal object, such as a phone, is in contact with the skin

it disrupts the flashover and increases the odds of internal injuries and death.

The doctors added that three fatal cases of lightning striking people while using mobile phones have been reported in newspapers in China, South Korea and Malaysia.

"The Australian Lightning Protection Standard recommends that metallic objects, including cordless or mobile phones, should not be used (or carried) outdoors during a thunderstorm," Esprit added. Reuters

Brazil's Varig airline fights for survival

RIO DE JANEIRO, BRAZIL—THE survival of Brazil's flagship airline Varig is on the line as a group of employees scramble to raise enough money for a first payment on the carrier, which faces liquidation if the money isn't paid or another suitor doesn't emerge.

The workers' group, TGV, faces a Friday deadline to make the US\$75 million (euro59.6 million) payment, but acknowledged it may not be able to come up with the cash.

Meanwhile, Varig continued to strand passengers in Brazil and abroad on Thursday. By the afternoon it had canceled 118 of its 189 flights, Brazil's National Civil Aviation Authority said.

Other domestic and international airlines geared up to take over Varig's routes if the company is broken up, but there could be an incredible crush of people trying to get back to Brazil if the carriers can't meet the demand.

Thursday night, officials announced that there are 28,000 people abroad who have tickets to fly to Brazil on the airline between this week and June 30. Thirteen thousand of them are in Europe, many of them Brazilians in Germany for the World Cup.

But the authorities insisted that some airlines were abiding with government pleas to honor Varig tickets, making it possible for Brazilians who got stuck overseas to get home—despite delays sometimes lasting days.

"I'm not minimizing the hassles for the passengers, but in the context of an emergency plan, I think it is a success," said Milton Zuanazzi, the aviation authority's general director. AP



FAN DANCER

A performer dances with a fan at a ceremony to start the fourth Beijing Olympic arts festival near the Chinese Wall at Badaling June 23.

REUTERS

Japan court rejects suit on war shrine

TOKYO—JAPAN'S SUPREME Court refused Friday to award damages to critics of Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi's visits to a war shrine in its first ruling on the controversy that has set off tensions in East Asia.

Japan's top court said the plaintiffs had no grounds to deserve compensation for Koizumi's pilgrimages to Yasukuni shrine, which honors 2.5 million war dead including 14 top World War II war criminals.

Koizumi, who will step down in September, has gone to the shrine five times since taking office in 2001, infuriating China and South Korea which have refused one-on-one talks with him as a result.

In Friday's case, some 200 Japanese critics had sought a symbolic 10,000 yen (\$87) each from the government for "mental anguish" caused by Koizumi's 2001 visit.

The plaintiffs, who included rel-

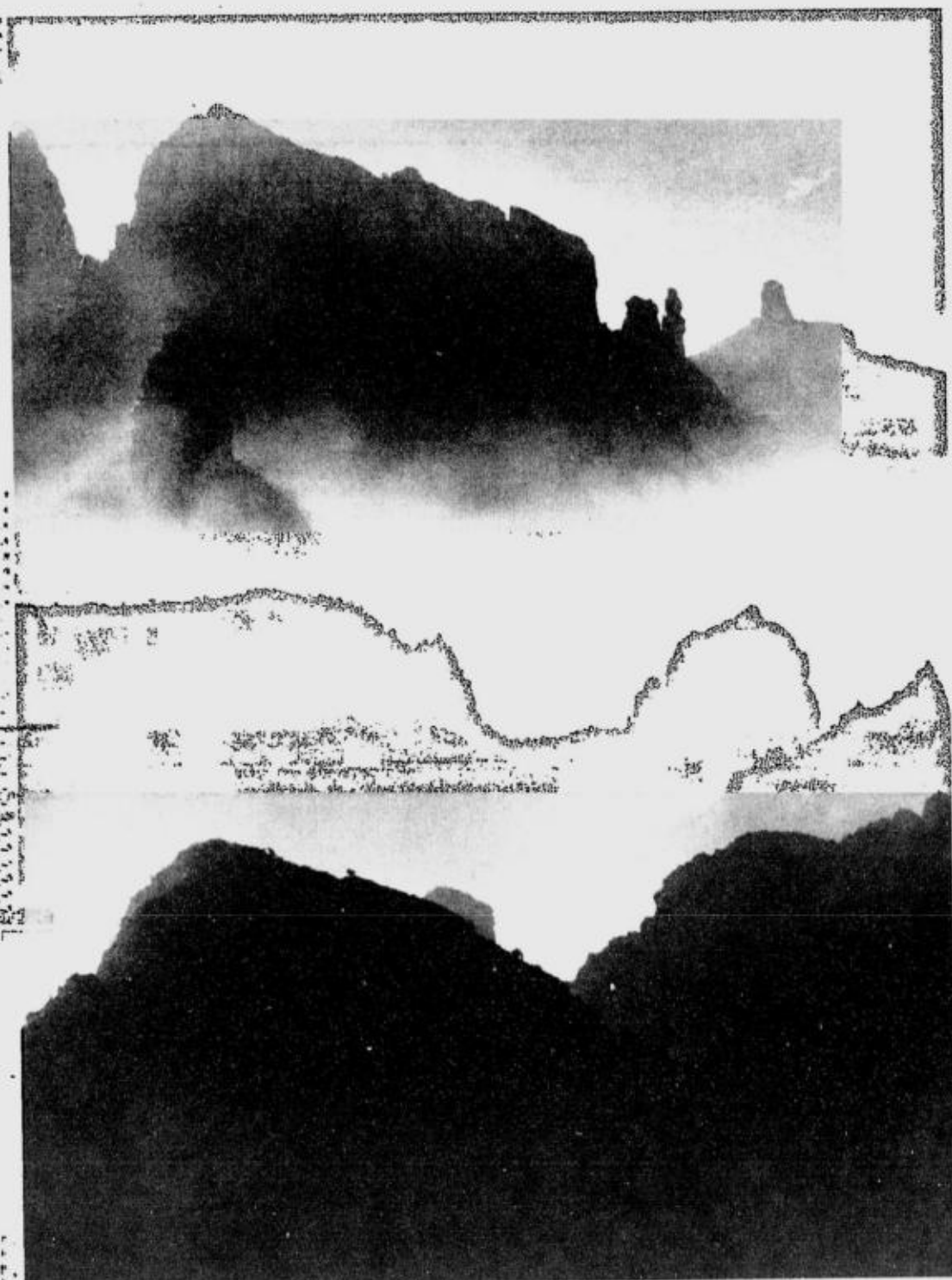
atives of war dead, Buddhists and Christians, also argued that the pilgrimage to the Shinto shrine violated Japan's constitutional separation of religion and state.

But a unanimous four-judge bench led by Judge Isao Imai refused to rule on the constitutionality of the visits and said the plaintiffs had no reason to be compensated.

"Visiting a shrine cannot by its nature pressure or interfere on other people's religious life," the ruling said.

"Therefore, even if people visit a particular shrine and it hurts other people's religious feelings or makes them feel unpleasant, it cannot be seen as damage to the plaintiffs' interests and they cannot seek compensation automatically."

"There is no difference in a visit to Yasukuni shrine by a man with the position of prime minister," he wrote. AFP



SMOKY VALLEY

Smoke from the Brins fire lays down in the valley near Sedona, Ariz., June 22. The blaze started Sunday in a camp used by transients and spread quickly, forcing the evacuation of about 460 homes and businesses in the canyon more than 100 km north of Phoenix.

AP/THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC

Somalia rivals sign peace accord

KHARTOUM—RIVAL SOMALI leaders on Thursday reached an agreement to end fighting in the war-ravaged Horn of Africa country following Arab League-sponsored talks in Khartoum, officials said.

The agreement was signed after a delegation from the Islamic alliance, which ousted US-backed warlords from the Somali capital on June 5 after four months of fighting, went into talks with members of the

transitional government.

The agreement recognizes "the legality of the transitional government and the presence of the alliance of Islamic tribunals," Arab League Secretary General Amr Mussa told reporters after heading talks between the two sides.

The text calls for an "end to media and military campaigns ... the pursuit of dialogue without preconditions in the framework of mutual recognition" and "the judgment of

war criminals," Mussa said.

It was signed by a prominent scholar representing the Islamic courts, Ali Mohammed Ibrahim, and Somali Foreign Minister Abdullah al-Sheikh Ismail.

The meeting came after both sides held separate consultations with Arab officials—including Mussa—as well as Sudanese President Omar al-Beshir, who holds the rotating chair of the pan-Arab body. AFP

US gets access to bank records

WASHINGTON—THE BUSH administration has been quietly tracking people suspected of bankrolling terrorism through a secret program that gives the US government access to a massive data base of international financial transactions.

Treasury Department officials said they used broad subpoenas to collect the financial records from an international system known as Swift. Stuart Levey, Treasury's undersecretary for terrorism and financial intelligence, called the subpoenas "a legal and proper use of our authorities."

"Since immediately following 9/11, the American government has taken every legal measure to prevent another attack on our country," Dana Perino, deputy White House

press secretary, said. "One of the most important tools in the fight against terror is our ability to choke off funds for the terrorists."

Under the program, US counterterrorism analysts could query Swift's financial data base looking for information on activities by suspected terrorists as part of specific terrorism investigations, a Treasury Department official said. They would do so by plugging in a name or names, the official said.

The program involved both the CIA and the Treasury Department.

Swift, or the Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication, is a cooperative based in Belgium that handles financial message traffic from 7,800 financial institutions in more than 200 countries.

The service, which routes more than 11 million messages each day, mostly captures information on wire transfers and other methods of moving money in and out of the United States. It doesn't execute these money transfers. The service generally doesn't detect private, individual transactions in the United States, such as withdrawals from an ATM or bank deposits. It is aimed mostly at international transfers.

The administration defended use of the program, saying it plays a vital role in its efforts to identify terrorist financiers.

"Our subpoena of terrorist-related records from Swift has provided us with a unique and powerful window into the operations of terrorist networks," Levey said. AP



FLOWER CARPET

A man works on an intricate flower carpet in the town of La Orotava, Spain, June 22, part of Corpus Christi celebrations.

AFP



WHAT'S INSIDE

Suico fighting for world title; Amonsot sees action on July 2
/A24

SPORTS

E-mail: pr_sports@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Teddyvic S. Melendres

Text us your feedback: Inquirer sport name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Italians oust No. 2 Czechs; Australia also advances
/A26



Yaps shine as Giants trim Aces' series lead

By June Navarro

ROGER YAP WAS THE MISSING LINK PUREFOODS has been looking for in the series.

Out of his element the past two games, Yap was the glue that kept the Giants together this time for an 82-79 win over the Alaska Aces in Game 3 of the PBA Philippine Cup semifinals last night at the Araneta Coliseum.

The veteran playmaker, who only averaged five points in Games 1 and 2, tallied a game-high 19 points, his highest output in the last four seasons, and conspired with James Yap as the Giants cut the series deficit to 1-2.

"I think they (Aces) don't respect Roger," said Purefoods coach Ryan Gregorio. "They were not guarding him. Now, they will have second

thoughts about him."

In the second game, Red Bull took a 2-1 series lead over San Miguel, bucking Danny Seigle's 37-point explosion to forge a 99-95 victory.

Roger Yap's floater coupled with a pair of freethrows tied the count at 74 before James Yap hit a three-pointer that gave the Giants the lead for good.

Nic Belasco sank his charities after getting a foul from Kerby Raymundo but James Yap nailed a 21-footer and Roger Yap swiped the leather from a driving Mike Cortez to almost seal the win for coach Ryan Gregorio.

"James made a huge sacrifice in the first three quarters," said Gregorio. "He played decoy and when winning time came, he knew when to take those shots."

As the Alaska defense mercilessly collapsed on him, James Yap was quick to make that extra pass with Roger Yap on the receiving end more often.

"We knew they (Aces) will double up on me so I had to swing the ball over to Roger. Those touches enabled him to score more points," said James Yap in Filipino. Winning Game 3 though

was not only a shift of momentum for the Giants. It beckoned images of the 2002 Governors Cup Finals which Gregorio and the Giants won by clawing out of a 0-2 hole.

The scores:

First Game

PUREFOODS 82—Yap 19, Yap 15, Limpot 15, Raymundo 11, Simon 8, Pingris 4, Evangelista 4, Yee 4, Artadi 2, Castillo 0.

ALASKA 79—Cortez 18, Belasco 17, Caria-

GAMES TOMORROW

(Araneta Coliseum)

4:10 p.m.—Red Bull

vs San Miguel Beer

6:35 p.m.—Purefoods

vs Alaska

so 10, Hugnatan 8, Dela Cruz 8, Miller 7, Wilson 6, Thoss 4, Ferriols 1, Laure 0, Bajar 0.

Quarters: 17-13, 34-29,

56-59, 82-79

Second Game

RED BULL 99—Tugade

15, Villanueva 14, Robinson

13, Bugla 11, Pennisi 11, Najorda 10, Bagulo

10, Cruz 7, Valenzuela 4, Alvarez 3.

Fonacier 1.

SAN MIGUEL 95—Seigle 37, Hontiveros

13, Ildelfonso 13, Gonzales 11, Peña 9, Racela

8, Calagulo 3, Cablay 1, Adriano 0.

Quarters: 25-13, 42-44, 67-75, 99-95

MICROVAN

MEGA SALE!
on June 30, 2006 • STARTS AT 8:30A.M. SHARP

(02) 984-0278/79

VAN HEUSEN

MIAMI • SAN FRANCISCO • LOS ANGELES

AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION

SALE

FROM JUNE 22 - JULY 09, 2006

50% OFF
ON SELECT ITEMS

OUTLET STORES: Festival Mall • Gateway • Men's World-Glorietta • Shangri-La Plaza • The Shops-Greenhills • SM Baguio • Batangas • Cagayan de Oro • Cebu • Clark • Davao Mall of Asia • Manila • Megamall • Pampanga • San Lazaro • Southmall • Robinsons Galleria • Manila • DEPT. STORES: Rustan's Alabang Town Center • Harrison Plaza Tower • SM Cagayan de Oro • Cebu • Cubao • Iloilo • Davao • Makati • Mall of Asia • Megamall • North Edsa • Robinsons Bacolod • Festival Galleria • Manila • Pioneer

Also at: Landmark • Market-Market • Metro Gaisano Cebu • **OUTLET STORES:** SM Sta. Mesa • Robinsons Starbills • Riverbanks

Per DTI-NCR permit #1806, Series of 2006.

NCAA kicks off today; Baculi bolts Dolphins

GAMES TODAY (Araneta Coliseum)

12 noon—Opening Ceremonies

2 p.m.—St. Benilde vs Letran (Srs)

4 p.m.—Mapua vs PCU (Srs)

6 p.m.—San Sebastian vs UPD (Srs)

8 p.m.—Jose Rizal vs San Beda (Srs)

By Marc Anthony Reyes

TOP AMATEUR AND COLLEGIATE coach Junel Baculi bolted the Philippine Christian University on Thursday, rocking the NCAA men's basketball hours before it unveils its 82nd season at the Araneta Coliseum today.

League officials refused to give details, although they promised to issue a formal statement just before defending champion Letran and host St. Benilde open hostilities at 2 p.m.

Baculi steered the Dolphins to a runner-up finish last year after they set a milestone for winning the 2004 title through the efforts of coach Ato Tolentino and prized forward Gabby Espinas.

PCU will now enter the 4 p.m. tussle against Mapua without a head coach, although assistant coach Joel Dualan is expected to call the shots temporarily.

Baculi was the third coach to have jumped ship before the season began, following Cris Calilan of Jose Rizal University and Turo

Valenzona of San Sebastian.

Calilan, who was part of the school's last championship in 1972, didn't offer an explanation. He was replaced Ariel Vanguardia, a former member of the Talk 'N Text coaching staff in the PBA.

Valenzona has since given up the reins to his son Raymond.

Eight teams see action after the lunchtime opening ceremony with the Knights expected to come out strong in their quest for back-to-back championships.

San Sebastian collides with University of Perpetual Help System-Dalta at 6 p.m., while Jose Rizal U meets San Beda at 8 p.m.

With the theme "Proud and True at 82: Blazing Beyond Limits," the season will be ushered in by keynote speaker Jose "Peping" Cojuangco, president of the Philippine Olympic Committee.

Special guests include Philippine Sports Commission chair William "Butch" Ramirez and Presidential Adviser on Youth and Sports Ali Atienza, and members of the NCAA policy board headed by Bro. Dodo Fernandez, FSC.

"We've been waiting for this opportunity to host the NCAA, that's why we really prepared hard for the opening," said Management Committee chair Bernie Atienza of St. Benilde.

INDEPENDENCE DEALS PART 3

Celebrate 108 Years of Independence With These Liberating Deals!

X-TRAIL FREEDOM PACKAGE

NISSAN X-TRAIL 200X/250X
P99,000 DP
(At 15% DP)

NISSAN Cefiro at ZERO %
(24 mos. 0% interest at 0% DP)

NISSAN Serena ORV-R AT P150,000 DP
(At 10% DP)

NISSAN Sentra GSX AT/MT P95,000 DP
(At 10% DP)

The Freedom Packages include: FREE ONE YEAR INSURANCE, FREE CHATTEL MORTGAGE plus FREE 3-YEAR LTO REGISTRATION.

24-months, Zero Interest Freedom Package applicable to Sentra 1.3 A/T, Sentra 1.6, Cefiro, X-TRAIL and Serena.

Cash Discounts available only for cash buyers.

Promo duration: June 7 to June 30, 2006 • All financing packages subject to bank approval

Per DTI-Region IV-A Permit No. 06-080, Series of 2006.

NISSAN

Assembled and distributed by
NISSAN MOTOR PHILIPPINES, INC.
www.nissan.com.ph

Nissan Gallery Quezon Ave.
731-5308 • Fax 740-3066
Nissan Shaw Center
722-7070/7179 • 729-2550/5487
Nissan U.N. Ave., Manila
400-1020/2177 • 522-4553 • 404-2430

Nissan Westgate Alabang
772-1827 to 30 • 776-0239
Nissan North EDSA Balintawak
330-0331 loc 233/248/265 • 381-0905 • 455-0980
Nissan Southwoods
(018) 430-1683 • (049) 261-0400 • (02) 699-2400
Nissan Manila, Inc.
262-3560 • 261-9000 to 63

Mantrade Development Corp.
643-3516 to 23
Nissan Gallery Ortigas
635-5888 • 438-4537
Nissan Commonwealth
932-0428 • 951-2928 • Fax 031-6007

DADDY GETS THE BEST!!!

SPORTS

PFF told: Explain how P88M was spent

By Musong R. Castillo

THE NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION FOOTBALL Association, in trying to exercise its rights as a stockholder of the Philippine Football Federation, has again been prevented from finding out where an P88 million budget from Fifa, the world football body, has gone.

An accountant accompanied by NCRFA officials yesterday failed to enter the PFF offices at the PhilSports Complex in Pasig after the federation declared a "holiday" for its employees for the day.

The NCRFA had written the PFF a letter

dated June 15, informing the federation of its desire to have the financial records audited on suspicion of anomalous transactions entered into by the PFF in the last three years.

NCRFA representatives Mon Jose, Robbie Sandejas and auditor Bonifacio Santiago were all informed by Ultra security personnel of the "holiday" declared by PFF secretary Jennifer Hernandez on Thursday.

Security guard Ruby Aduco said Hernandez did not give a reason for the holiday.

The INQUIRER tried to get the side of PFF president Johnny Romualdez and the association's public relations man, Ed For-

moso, through text messages that were left unanswered.

The INQUIRER, though, learned that Romualdez rejected the NCRFA request on June 21, citing the absence of a valid reason to have the books opened.

But NCRFA president Jose Vito Borromeo argued that being "stockholders of the PFF, we are entitled to see the books anytime we wish."

Borromeo, who has been at odds with Romualdez, said that his association's suspicions started after the Feb. 25 football congress in Iloilo where the PFF declared expenses amounting to a combined P88

million from 2003 to last year.

"We are just wondering how all the money was spent," Borromeo told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview. "We just want the truth. And if the PFF is not hiding anything, then why not let the auditor do his job and make everyone see (the books)?"

Borromeo also said that the development yesterday has left him, and 50 percent of the 28 football associations under the PFF umbrella—which he claims are backing the NCRFA—with no other option but to seek the intervention of the courts.

"It (audit) is our right because we are incorporators of the PFF," Borromeo said.

Suico fighting for world title

Amonsot sees action on July 2

By Salven L. Lagumbay, Contributor

CEBU CITY—WORLD-RANKED RANDY SUICO, originally scheduled to see action in the Manny Pacquiao-Oscar Larios undercard, has been chosen to challenge World Boxing Association lightweight champion Juan Diaz on July 15 at the MGM Grand Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas.

Suico, currently training in Tokyo for the July 2 fight at the Big Dome, will have to get back to the country on Sunday to work out his visa requirements in time for the July 15 world title break, said Rex "Wakke" Salud, an associate of Suico's Japanese manager Joe Koizumi.

Set to replace Suico in the "Mano-A-Mano" card is the equally popular Czar Amonsot, who holds the WBO Asia Pacific super-featherweight crown. Amonsot takes on Mexican Silverio Ortiz in a 10-round non-title bout.

Cebuano boxing patron Antonio Aldeguer yesterday confirmed that Amonsot would be replacing Suico.

Amonsot (16-1-1, 10 KOs), who is fresh off two major victories in Las Vegas, will add luster to the Pacquiao-Larios encounter.

Salud, who is arranging the lineup of big card at the Araneta Coliseum, has also confirmed Amonsot's participation, indicating that the Tagbilaran City fighter will be a big plus for the boxing extravaganza.



ABLE REPLACEMENT: WBO Asia Pacific super-featherweight champion Czar Amonsot works out in Cebu City. (CN PHOTO/LARRY BALANAY)

Xavier, Ateneo dispute Adidas futsal lead

IT WILL BE A CLASH OF TITANS WHEN XAVIER Alumni Football Club and the Ateneo booters dispute the solo lead in men's 2nd Division-A at the resumption of the 2006 Adidas Futsal Championship today at the FMAC Gym in La Salle Green Hills in Mandaluyong City.

Xavier and Ateneo share the lead with two wins apiece, although Xavier has the edge in goal difference going into the fourth week of this tournament spon-

sored by Adidas and held in cooperation with the National Capital Region Football Association (NCRFA).

The co-leaders collide at 3 p.m., right after the 2 p.m. match between Los Borrachos and Union FC, which both tote 1-0 cards in men's 2nd Division-B.

AFP Selection (0-1) and Marines (0-1) clash at 4 p.m., each hoping to make it to the win column.

In the lone women's game slated at 4 p.m., Archers

650 tests the mettle of Vintage FC with the former La Salle collegiate stars gunning for their third victory in four starts. Vintage is looking to improve its 1-1 mark.

Air Force, the solo leader in men's 1st Division with a 2-0 card, battles Navy (0-1-1) at 6 p.m., while Pasargad (0-1-2) and Kaya FC (1-1) cap the hostilities at 7 p.m.

The tournament moves to the Adidas SportsKamp tomorrow with another heavy, seven-game schedule.

Figuerola takes recurve crown; Tabañag scores

OLONGAPO CITY—ATHENS OLYMPIAN JASMIN Figuerola flashed her old deadly form to emerge as national target archery champion for the second straight year Thursday in the Philippine Olympic Festival's archery event at the Subic Bay Freeport Football field here.

"I'm overjoyed, although I initially felt a bit nervous," said the 20-year-old Figuerola after keeping the women's recurve title by beating newcomer Emily Mae Yap of Cebu, 98 points to 89, in the Olympic round finals.

Rachelle Anne Cabral, 23rd SEAG bronze medalist, finished third.

Four-year-old Jamaila Mikhail R. Inductivo, the youngest archer in NAAP's 45-year-history, copped two golds for winning the qualifying and Olympic Rounds. Inductivo topped the novice class with 63 points.

Veteran Joann Tabanag ruled the adult compound over Jennifer Chan via a tiebreak after the two had finished with identical 108 points.

The other winners were Janet Bermas (81 points), Leina May Bolina (103), Lourdes May Bellona (79) and Ana Mariel Inton (96) in the Fita competitive, junior standard and Cadet divisions, respectively.

Dimakiling tops chess tilt

TAGAYTAY CITY—INTERNATIONAL MASTER OLIVER Dimakiling bucked a sluggish start then got lucky in the tiebreak to rule the 2006 National Chess Open Blitz Championship Thursday at the Tagaytay International Convention Center. The 2005 Southeast Asian Games double silver medalist halved the point with (M) Richard Bitoon in the 11th round to amass 8.5 points. He actually finished tied with Bitoon and fellow (M) Ronald Dableo. Dimakiling, however, registered superior tiebreak points (54.25 Sonnen Burger) to top the meet organized by the National Chess Federation of the Philippines as part of the inaugural staging of the Philippine Olympic Festival. In close second was Bitoon (51.25 SB) while Dableo settled for third (48.50 SB). Dimakiling won the P10,000 top prize.

Spring, Tagaytay cagers advance

SPRING COOKING OIL-PARAÑAQUE and Batang Tagaytay triumphed anew Thursday to storm into the national crossover semifinals of the Guerrero Brandy-NBC basketball championship.

The Cooking Oil Masters of NBC president Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla and Vice Mayor Anjo Yllana outlasted the Pangasinan Hundred Islands, 73-65, at the Lyceum gym while the Tagaytay cagers of NBC executive vice president and Mayor Bamol Tolentino overpowered Bacchus/Harbour Centre-Manila, 92-87, before a huge crowd at Tagaytay's International Convention Center.

Nani Epondulan poured in 25 points but it was Larry Rodriguez's fourth-quarter heroics that enabled the Cooking Oil Masters to sweep the series with Pangasinan in the tournament.

With the Pangasinenses leading 60-56, early in the final period, Rodriguez ignited a 14-0 run to help Spring-Parañaque pull away, 70-60, going into the last two minutes.

Arden Guiyab and Nino Marquez combined for 53 points to propel Tagaytay to victory at home.

The scores: SPRING 73—Epondulan 25, Rodriguez 10,

Morante 6, Manuel 6, Capobres 6, Yambao 6, Yee 5, Ortiguerra 4, De Castro 2, Soriano 2, Inigo 1, Reyes 0, Tiongco 0, Bamson 0, Lazaro 0.

PANGASINAN 65—Araman 19, Aquino 13, Lopez 11, Tolentino 9, Tiongson 4, Yambao 4, Balares 3, Ico 2, Ruiz 0.

Quarters: 19-23, 44-42, 56-55, 73-65

TAGAYTAY 92—Guiyab 30, Marquez 23, Robillos 12, Genido 5, Finillar 5, Caceres 5, Mendoza 4, Reyes 4, Mallari 4.

BACCHUS/HARBOUR 87—Beunale 23, Cuevas 12, Coyukang 12, Relaga 11, Membere 7, Reroma 7, Gamboa 7, Aquino 3, Sta.Cruz 3, Hardin 2.

Quarters: 35-29, 51-41, 73-67, 92-87

NBC Selection to defend title in Thai Prince Cup

THE NATIONAL BASKETBALL CONFERENCE (NBC) Selection will go all out to defend its title when it competes in the 10th Crown Prince Cup invitational basketball tournament in Songkhla, Thailand, on June 26 to July 2.

Backed by Spring Cooking Oil, the team will be bannered by NBC's outstanding players.

Five Spring mainstays—pre-season MVP Marlon Yambao, Mar Reyes, Danny Capobres, Larry Rodriguez and Marvin Ortiguerra—join Iligan's Marlon Kalaw and Ronnie Matias, Toyota-Iloilo's Eldrin Senierez and Ozamiz Cotta's Gerry Cavan and Boyet Guerrero in the squad.

Spring-Parañaque mentor Efrén "Yong" Garcia will handle the team together with Iligan's Jun Longalong and Ozamiz's Albert Calvo.

Challenging the Filipinos are the national teams of Thailand and Singapore, Hong Kong, South Korea's top collegiate team and three club teams from India and Japan.

Last year, the NBC Selection coached by Jun Noel, Al Solis and Vic Sanchez swept the crown.



AND THEY'RE OFF: Hundreds of runners answer the starting gun in the Olympic Day Run at the Adidas SportsKamp at The Fort in Taguig City recently. Cresencio Sabal of the Philippine Army clocked 33 minutes and 47 seconds to rule the 10K competition of the event, which was part of the just concluded Philippine Olympic Festival. The age-group champions were Aljean Diente and Macrose Dichoso (18 and under); Gerald Sabal and Mirasol Abad (19 to 25); Roger Sawinay and Genevieve de la Pena (26 to 35); Reynaldo de los Reyes and Delma Ocariza (36 to 45) and Diosdado Labardor (46 to 55).

Tougher San Mig Light Enduro race slated

SAVING ITS BEST FOR LAST, THE ENDURO San Mig Light Adventure Series 2006 draws to a close on July 7 and 8 with the concluding leg in Metro Manila.

The series wound up its final provincial sorties in Davao City on June 10 after holding the races in Cebu City on May 27.

Eduo organizers said the racers in Metro Manila will have to beat the traffic and pollution while vying for top honors in

the gruelling leg.

San Mig Light, the biggest supporter adventure racing in the country, is inviting race enthusiasts and sports aficionados to take part in the annual endurance event.

Two categories will be staged on separate dates. The championship in the 24-hour elite category event, to be flagged off on July 7, will be disputed by hard-core athletes and professional adventure racers.

The champion will receive P75,000 while the runner-up gets P30,000.

The Novice Category, which will be held the next day, is expected to be just as exciting with the champion taking home P15,000 and the second placer P10,000.

"The Manila leg will definitely be more exhilarating than the first two legs of this race," race director Rene "Neyney" Guevarra said. "The race will be filled with

variations and surprises that would make the trials more thrilling than the next."

The novice race will test the skills of yuppies, weekend warriors, students and outdoor adventure enthusiasts in a lung-busting four- to six-hour race.

Interested participants may call the Enduro hotline at (632) 414-1489 or log on to www.sanmiglight.com.ph for race details.

Asi, RenRen, Alapag can't go to Jones Cup

IT'S BEEN A BUSY, most interesting week for me. I had the opportunity to meet and have a long chat with sports-showbiz couple James Yap and Kris Aquino who, I discovered, are both very easy to like; I got the chance to sit down with Welcoat

IN HUDDLE



Beth Celis

owners Terry Que and Raymond Yu to discuss their "wish list"; I got to interview Ateneo head coach Norman Black and team manager Paolo Trillo regarding the Ateneo Blue Eagles' preparations for the 2006 UAAP season; I got to attend Harbour Centre's extended victory celebration twice; and I had a long talk with PBA vice chair Ricky Vargas on his team's rehab plans for the 2006-07 PBA season.

Gosh, I almost forgot. I also had the chance to revisit Eugene Tejada at the Makati Medical Center (he said he was still feeling "the same") and say "ciao" to his agent Bobby Rius, who was returning to San Francisco that day. Plus, I had a short interview with Purefoods cager and MVP aspirant Kerby Raymundo about his team's chances of making the finals despite trailing Alaska, 0-2, in the ongoing PBA Philippine Cup best-of-seven semifinal series.

Like teammate James Yap, Kerby is confident that the Giants would get back on track in Game 3 (yesterday).

"We just have to make minor adjustments. We studied the videotapes of Games One and Two and have realized that our mistakes are basic, *madaling maitama*," Kerby said.

Both he and James agree that the long layoff may have also contributed to the Giants' lethargy.

"Nagka-inertia. But after two games, *tanggal na ang kalawang*," James said.

James and Kerby are No. 1 and No. 3, respectively, in the MVP statistical race after the quarterfinals. Red Bull's Enrico Villanueva is in second place, Ginebra's Mark Caguioa No. 4 and Lordy Tugade No. 5.

Because of his team's dismal performance this conference, TNT's Ricky Vargas and the coaching staff have drafted an intensive training program for the Phone Pals during the off-season.

On July 12, the team will fly to Los Angeles to compete in a summer league which will include a strong squad from China. From there, the team will undergo special training under American experts.

The Phone Pals will be out of the country from July 12 up to the first week of August. The conflict in schedule will not allow the three national cagers—Asi Taulava, Jimmy Alapag and RenRen Ritualo—to join the RP team in the Jones Cup and the Sultan's Cup in Brunei, which means coach Chot Reyes will have to make some adjustments.

"Our schedules have been firmed up way before we were informed about these overseas tournaments. We've booked for air travel, lodgings and have paid the fees," explained Ricky.

Welcoat's Terry Que made a rare appearance with partner Raymond Yu and Harbour Centre's Mikee Romero at the PSA Forum last Tuesday, and to everyone's delight, the mike-shy team owner even spoke a few words to the audience who wanted to know if Welcoat was ready for the PBA.

"*Handang-handa na!*" Terry uttered. Behind the microphone, he was stingy with words.

Later over lunch, Terry said that minus the mike, he was not that shy.

"The truth is, we are not really that ready yet, if we're talking about the lineup. We're still wracking our brains on how we can form a respectable team," Terry said.

He and Raymond's greatest fear is that the Paintmasters might get clobbered every game. Welcoat was allowed to elevate three players from their amateur team. The teams are protecting 10 players to give way to the expansion draft.

If they had a choice, Terry and Raymond would like to form their PBA squad around the Welcoat cagers who are now in the PBA. These are: James Yap, Rommel Adducul, Yancy de Ocampo, Don Alado, RenRen Ritualo, Marc Pingris, Celino Cruz, Earvin Soto, Willie Wilson, Nelson Omolon and Ronald Tubid.

"That's our wish list," chorused Raymond and Terry.

Devance did not snub RP team, says Toyota Otis

FIL-AM JOE DEVANCE WASN'T REMISS ABOUT HIS national team duties. Toyota Otis team owner Gil Angeles clarified yesterday that Devance intended to suit up for the RP team, but had to fly back to the United States to attend to his ailing mother. "He had to go home as soon as possible because his mother will be undergoing open heart surgery," said Angeles. He left on June 20. Coach Chot Reyes invited Devance, the Philippine Basketball League's MVP, to be part of the national pool that will compete in the Jones Cup on July 8-16 in Taiwan. But early reports claimed Devance left for Texas after Toyota Otis lost to Harbour Centre in the PBL title series.

Jasmine W. Payo

Adamson tests mettle of Lyceum

ADAMSON, ALREADY ASSURED OF A PLAYOFFS BERTH, GETS TO sharpen its skills against pesky spoiler Lyceum today in the penultimate semifinal date of the Shakey's V-League at the Blue Eagle Gym.

The Lady Falcons downed San Sebastian last Wednesday to assure themselves of a rubber-match for the last finals slot. But they can still make it outright depending on the Lady Stags' performance versus Far Eastern in the last semis day on Monday.

At any rate, Adamson hopes to escape Lyceum's freak

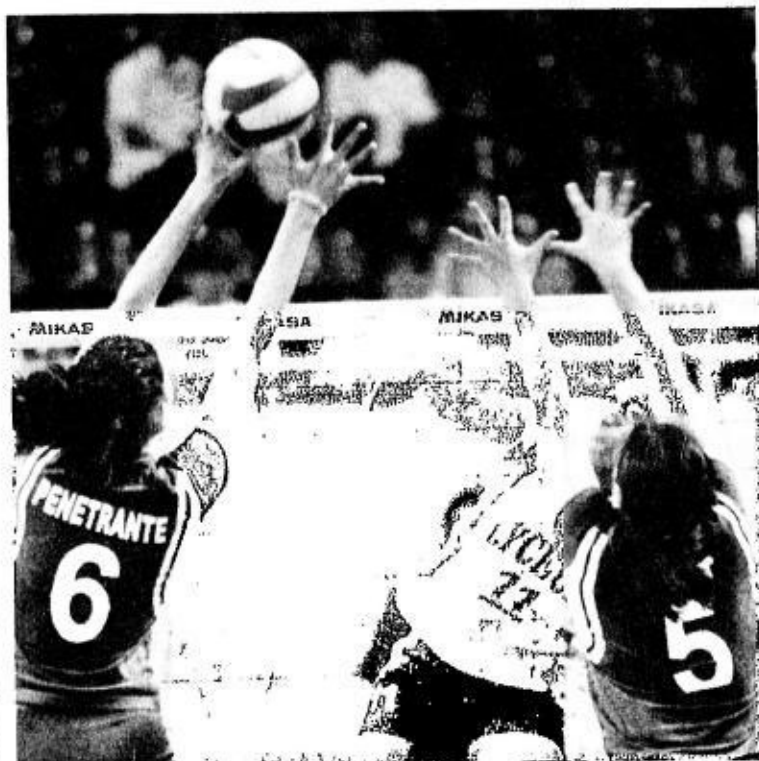
STANDINGS	W	L
La Salle	11	2
Adamson	9	4
S. Sebastian	8	6
Lyceum	7	7
FEU	5	8

GAMES TODAY
(Blue Eagle Gym)
12 noon—Adamson
vs Lyceum
2 p.m.—FEU vs DLSU

winning streak as the Lady Pirates, though out of contention, have won three straight games against tough teams like La Salle and San Sebastian.

La Salle will once again try different combinations when it takes on also-ran Far Eastern in the other game.

The Lady Archers have wagered



THEY maybe out of the running, but the Lyceum Lady Pirates' (center) fighting spirit remains as strong as ever.

their once immaculate record twice in a row, hoping to gain more flexibility and depth for the best-of-three championship series.

La Salle is also expected to give Thai import Jindarat Kanchana enough rest and allow its local

lineup to step up.

Kanchana, the backbone of La Salle's offense, is nursing a knee injury after a grueling match-up with fellow Thai reinforcement Jalensri Boulee of San Sebastian last week. *Marc Anthony Reyes*

Knicks fire Brown as coach, hire Thomas as replacement

NEW YORK — THE NEW YORK Knicks put Larry Brown out of his coaching misery on Thursday, ending weeks of uncertainty by firing the Hall of Fame coach with four years and a reported \$40 million (euro32 million) left on his contract.

President and general manager

Isiah Thomas will replace Brown as coach.

In Brown's lone season in New York, the Knicks stumbled to a 23-59 record — second worst in the NBA and matching the most losses in club history — while Brown publicly feuded with Stephon Marbury and other players.

AP

Roberto, T'pinco bow out

LORA ROBERTO AND ANYA T'pinco failed to sustain their fine form in morning play and were eliminated from the 106th National Amateur Golf Championships of the Women's Western Golf Association in Bluefield, Virginia, Thursday.

Roberto lost, 5 and 4, to Adrienne Millican of North Carolina in the

Last-16 matches after disposing of Frederique Bruell of Ohio, 3 and 2, in the morning battles among the top 32 survivors of the first round.

T'pinco advanced to the last 32 after beating Marianne Towersey of Pebble Beach, 2 and 1, but was humbled, 7 and 5, by Morgan Olds of Connecticut in the upper bracket.

Burlington

PHILIPPINE CUP

THE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP 2006

Official PBA Socks

Ground Zero

CAR AUDIO SYSTEM

BEWARE OF IMITATIONS

i.V12 AMPLIFIER

AMPLIFIER 4 channels x 50W 1200W GZ-705.4

BoomBox

BASS TUBE w/ amplifier BB-6.0
BASS TUBE w/ amplifier 150W with control box BB-6.0
BASS TUBE w/ amplifier 150W with control box BB-10.0
BASS TUBE 10.1 150W BB-10.1+00-500e

iAudio SPEAKERS

4" DUAL CONE 120W 8oz MAGNET, PP CONE GZ-2401
5" DUAL CONE 150W 8oz MAGNET, PP CONE GZ-2501
6.5" DUAL CONE 200W 10oz MAGNET, PP CONE GZ-2601
4" 2WAY 120W 8oz MAGNET, PP CONE GS-2402
5" 2WAY 150W 8oz MAGNET, PP CONE GS-2502
6.5" 2WAY 200W 10oz MAGNET, PP CONE GS-2602
6X9" 3WAY 350W 30oz MAGNET, PP CONE GS-2693

CROSSOVER -SEPERATES

4" WOOFER / 1.5" TWEETER / 12dB CROSSOVER
5.25" WOOFER / 1.5" TWEETER / 12dB CROSSOVER
6.5" WOOFER / 1.5" TWEETER / 12dB CROSSOVER

CAREFULLY ENGINEERED IN U.S.A. • HIGH QUALITY SOUND • AFFORDABLE PRICE

Distributed by:
EVERBEST TRADING
567-A G. Araneta Ave., Q.C.
Tel. Nos.: 712-2312; 712-2608; 741-2616
Fax.: (632) 741-8259 • E-mail: ebest@info.com.ph

AVAILABLE IN LEADING CAR ACCESSORIES SHOP NATIONWIDE

SPORTSWATCH

Bosconian Golf Cup

THE 1ST BOSCONIAN GOODWILL GOLF CUP, AN 18-hole tournament open to all Don Bosco alumni and their friends, will be held on June 28 at The Orchard Golf & Country Club in Dasmariñas, Cavite. The tournament is hosted by the Don Bosco Mandaluyong High School Batch '82, sponsored by Shakey's Pizza and supported by Citibank and Mayor Ely Pillas of Jala-jala, Rizal. Aside from alumni of Don Bosco Mandaluyong, Bosconians from Pampanga and Makati and other schools are joining the golfest. Tickets will be available at the registration table on tournament date. Call event chairman Vic Gregorio at 0920-9136182 or event marketing manager, Dondo de la Vega at 0917-5357317 or Rosalie Salva at 8390158.

Makati derby stakes P2M

THE WTJ SPORTS AND AMUSEMENT CORP. presents another blockbuster cockfight at Makati Coliseum on July 10, 12, 15, 17, 19 and 22, the Salpuhan Sa Taglugon 5- cock derby offering a guaranteed prize of P2 million and a brand new Ford Escape. Promoters Lito Orillaza, Rudy Salud and William Co of WTJ pegged the entry fee at P10,000 and minimum bet at P5,500. Sponsor is B- Meg Derby Ace. Meanwhile, the Pinoy Cockers Association of the Philippines (PCAP) CHAMPIONSHIP 8- cock derby fires off on Monday and Wednesday, June 26 and 28. For details, call 896 -3545 and 895 -6475.

Fastest Win event at SJC

GUARANTEED PRIZES ARE AT STAKE TODAY when the Fastest Win One- Cock Ulutan unfolds at San Juan Coliseum beginning at 10 a.m. with Sagupaan Complexor 3000 as main backer. The fastest win champion, who will be chosen after every five fights, will get P15,000 while the second receives P5,000, said promoters Sam Mendoza and Ronnie Lacsina. Up next at SJC is the United Backyard Breeders Association (UBBA) 3- cock derby on July 1. For inquiries, call 725 -5369 and 725 -6563 or 0917 -8041691 (Ronnie).

Nicklaus Int'l Invt'l golf slated at Sta. Elena

THE LOCAL QUALIFYING TOURNAMENT FOR the prestigious Jack Nicklaus International Invitational in Florida tees off on July 3 at the Sta. Elena Golf Club in Cabuyao, Laguna.

Organizers said players need only the receipt for a P3,500 purchase of Jack Nicklaus apparel or accessories at any Rustan's Department Store in Metro Manila and Cebu from May 15 to June 30 to be able to compete in the tournament.

The International Invitational is scheduled in November at the Bear's Club in Jupiter, Florida.

Filipino golfers over 21, male or female, can take a crack at the international stint by winning the event presented by Sta. Elena in cooperation with Volvo for Life and primarily sponsored by Gulf Air, El Nido Resort and Island Transvoyager.

Green fees, golf carts and food are free and each player will be given a Jack Nicklaus International Invitational signature shirt.

The winners of the men's and women's divisions will be entitled to a round-trip airfare to Florida, as well as four days and three nights accommodation with full meals.

The two second prize winners will get roundtrip tickets each to Dubai courtesy of Gulf Air, while the two third placers plus a guest each will win a roundtrip airfare and three days and two nights accommodation with breakfast at the El Nido Resort in Palawan.

Winston in CONCERT

Featuring

Bamboo

Sat. June 24, 9pm

Leyte Park, Tacloban

Brought to you by:

Winston

Spirit of the Leaf

No minors allowed. Open to persons 18 years old and above only. Organizer reserves the right to refuse entry to those without IDs as proof of age.

Government Warning:
Cigarette smoking is dangerous to your health.

SPORTS



First Round

GROUP A						
Team	MP	W	D	L	GF	GA Pts
Germany	3	3	0	0	8	2 9
Ecuador	3	2	0	1	5	3 6
Poland	3	1	0	2	2	4 3
Costa Rica	3	0	0	3	3	9 0
GROUP B						
England	3	2	1	0	5	2 7
Sweden	3	1	2	0	3	3 5
Paraguay	3	1	0	2	2	2 3
Trinidad & Tobago	3	0	1	2	0	4 1
GROUP C						
Argentina	3	2	1	0	8	1 7
Netherlands	3	2	1	0	3	1 7
Ivory Coast	3	1	0	2	5	6 3
Serbia & Mont.	3	0	0	3	2	10 0
GROUP D						
Portugal	3	3	0	0	5	1 9
Mexico	3	1	1	1	4	3 4
Angola	3	0	2	1	1	2 2
Iran	3	0	1	2	2	6 1
GROUP E						
Italy	3	2	1	0	5	1 7
Ghana	3	2	0	1	4	3 6
Czech Republic	3	1	0	2	3	4 3
USA	3	0	1	2	2	6 1
GROUP F						
Brazil	3	3	0	0	7	1 9
Australia	3	1	1	1	5	5 4
Croatia	3	0	2	1	2	3 2
Japan	3	0	1	2	2	7 1
GROUP G						
Switzerland	2	1	1	0	2	0 4
Korea Republic	2	1	1	0	3	2 4
France	2	0	2	0	1	1 2
Togo	2	0	0	2	1	4 0
GROUP H						
Spain	2	2	0	0	7	1 6
Ukraine	2	1	0	1	4	4 3
Tunisia	2	0	1	1	3	5 1
Saudi Arabia	2	0	1	1	2	6 1

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Italy 2, Czech Republic 0
Ghana 2, United States 1
Brazil 4, Japan 1
Croatia 2, Australia 2

TODAY'S MATCHES

Togo vs France; Switzerland vs South Korea; Saudi Arabia vs Spain; Ukraine vs Tunisia

TEAM

MP - Matches Played
W - Wins
D - Draws
L - Losses
GF - Goals For
GA - Goals Against
Pts - Points

Italians oust No. 2 Czechs

Ronaldo ties goal record; Australia also advances

BERLIN—THE WORLD CUP got its first high-profile casualty Thursday and its first surprise successes.

The second-ranked Czech Republic exited after losing its final Group E game, 2-0, to Italy, which won its group and advanced. Ghana and Australia advanced ahead of more favored teams.

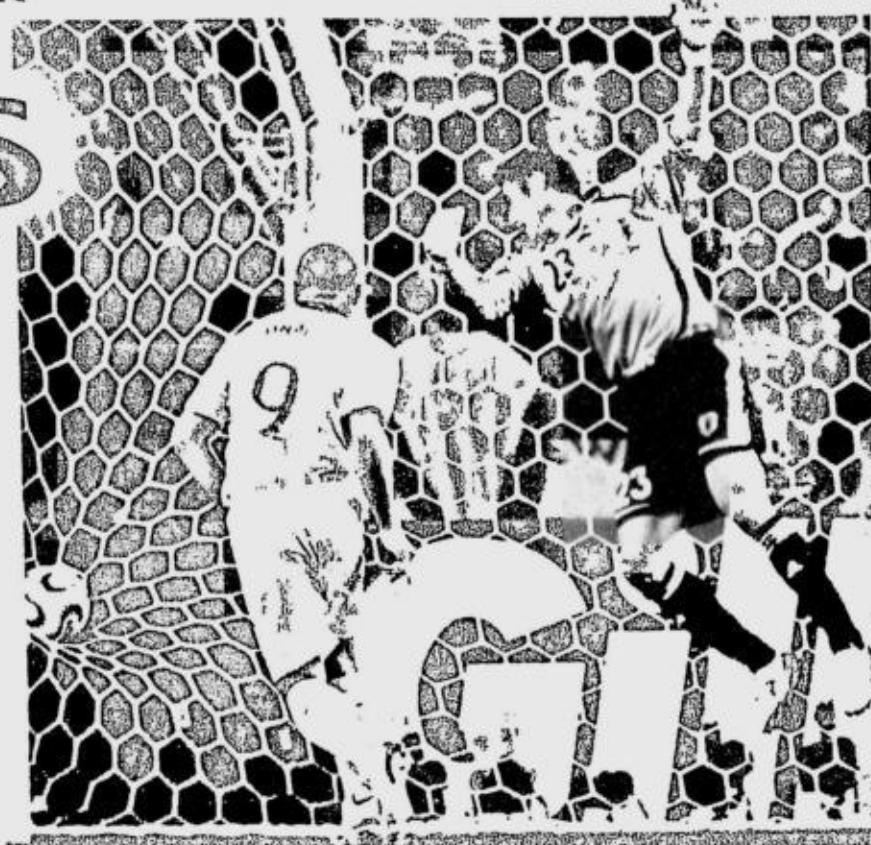
Ghana beat the United States, 2-1, to reach the second round in its first tournament

and send the No. 5 Americans home.

Australia drew, 2-2, with 1998 semifinalist Croatia to edge its opponent for a round-of-16 berth alongside defending champion Brazil, which beat Japan, 4-1, with Ronaldo scoring two goals to tie the tournament's all-time scoring record.

Australia will be up against three-time world champion Italy in its next game in Kaiserslautern on Monday. Ghana will be in action Tuesday against Brazil in Dortmund.

In Hamburg, Italy defender Marco Mat-



SUPERSTAR Ronaldo (left) scores during Brazil's round Group F World Cup football match against Japan.

AFP

erazzi replaced the injured Alessandro Nesta in the 17th minute against the Czech Republic and scored nine minutes later.

Australia, which last played at the World Cup in 1974 and trailed early on, first leveled through Craig Moore's penalty and then through Harry Kewell with 11 minutes left.

With its second-round berth already secured, Brazil fielded five reserve players and got goals from two of them, Juninho and Gilberto.

"It's important to have options," Brazil coach Carlos Alberto Parreira said.

But it was Ronaldo who was the star in Brazil's record 10th straight World Cup win.

Criticized for his weight and sluggish performances in early games, Ronaldo appeared close to top form. He first leveled at 1-1 with a header a minute into first-half injury time and scored his second goal in the 81st with a right-footer from 20 meters.

The first goal moved him past Pele as Brazil's all-time scoring leader in the competition and the second tied the record held by Gerd Mueller of Germany.

Also, Fifa said Thursday that Brazil won't get to keep the World Cup trophy if it wins its sixth title in Germany.

Fifa communications director Markus Sieglar denied that Brazil, or any other team, would get to keep one of the most globally recognized prizes in sport.

FIFA WORLD CUP ON SPORTPLUS

4 a.m.—Japan vs Brazil
4 p.m.—Croatia vs Australia
(replay tomorrow @ 1 a.m.)
10 p.m.—Saudi Arabia vs Spain



AUSTRALIA'S Harry Kewell celebrates scoring his team's second goal against Croatia.

REUTERS

Double the POWER, Triple the FUN!

HP recommends Microsoft® Windows® XP Professional.

Get more, do more, and enjoy more with the new HP Pavilion a1349d Desktop PC featuring the latest Intel® Pentium® D Processor with Dual-Core Processing. The new Intel® Pentium® D Processor features new Dual-Core Processing, increasing the computing resources of the HP Pavilion a1349d Desktop PC. Accomplish more while running multiple demanding programs, such as editing video while downloading music or playing one of the 30 pre-loaded games*. Plus until July 8, 2006 bring home the HP Pavilion a1349d Desktop PC and the HP Pavilion a1360d Desktop PC at 0% interest installment* and get a Free HP Entertainment Sportsbag. So Hurry and bring this HP Pavilion Desktop PC home and experience new ways to use your family PC.

NEW! with Dual-Core Processing

P 11,165.00 /month
6 months 0% interest*

- Intel® Pentium® D Processor 820 with Dual-Core Processing* (2 x 1MB L2 Cache, 2.80GHz, 800MHz FSB)
- Genuine Microsoft® Windows® XP Home Edition
- 512MB DDR2 (expandable up to 2.0 GB with discard)
- 160GB Serial ATA hard drive at 7200RPM
- SuperMulti Drive with Lightscribe Technology, Double Layer DVD±RW
- Integrated High Definition Audio, 7.1 Surround Sound Ready
- 9-in-1 Digital Media Reader
- ITU V.90 K56 flex modem
- Integrated 10/100 BaseT network interface
- Integrated ATI Radeon Xpress 200 Hypermemory Graphics
- 30 Trial Games with Free 60 minutes of play*
- 1 year limited warranty with up-and-running phone support for first 30 days

P 39,990.00 | HP Pavilion a1360d Desktop PC

- Intel® Pentium® 4 Processor 524 with HT Technology*+ (1MB L2 Cache, 3.06GHz, 533MHz FSB)
- Genuine Microsoft® Windows® XP Home Edition
- 256MB DDR
- 80.0 GB Ultra DMA hard drive at 7200RPM
- CD/RW/DVD Combo Drive
- Integrated stereo sound system. Dolby 7.1 Surround Sound Ready
- 9-in-1 Digital Media Reader
- ITU V.90 K56 flex Modem
- Integrated 10/100 BaseT network interface (Broadband Ready)
- HP De Luxe Multi-media Keyboard and Mouse
- 30 Trial Games with Free 60 minutes of play*
- 43.18cm (17") Flat Screen CRT Monitor
- 1 year limited warranty

P 6,665.00/month
6 months 0% interest*

Star Features

- HP 43.18cm (17") LCD Monitor
- HP 43.18cm (17") LCD Monitor** P8,000 or HP 43.18cm (17") LCD Monitor** P9,000
- HP 43.18cm (17") LCD Monitor SRP P13,000
- HP 43.18cm (17") LCD Monitor SRP P15,000

Upgrade your viewing experience on these desktop when you upgrade the HP 43.18cm (17") CRT Monitor to LCD Monitors:

FREE HP ENTERTAINMENT SPORTS BAG

Free with the purchase of an HP Pavilion a1349d Desktop PC and an HP Pavilion a1360d Desktop PC

With all these inside the Sports Bag:

- Gaming Pad with Vibration Mode
- Stereo Headset

LightScribe Technology

Burn your DVD and etch screen images on your disc with the new LightScribe technology*

Convenient plug-and-play I/O port

Versatile 9-in-1 media card reader

Participating Reseller: HP Branded Stores - HP Home and Business Center (Glorietta) 752-8821, HP Store - DLSU Taft 536-3245; HP Store - Ortigas Computer Depot 636-7589; HP Store - Cebu (032)340-2962, 232-4546 HP Pavilion Reseller - Accent Micro/PC Live 771-0779, 633-1722; CompLink/E-Hub 637-3988, 637-4444-45; Electroworld 812-3888 927-9525; PCWorld 725-1919; Octagon 635-9080, 867-1705; The Computer Authority 633-1594, 810-5090

* Trial version of game. 60 minutes of play time per game. Full version available for purchase. * 0% interest valid for 6 months installment plans for HP Pavilion a1349d Desktop PC and HP Pavilion a1360d Desktop PC, provided monthly bills are paid in full, subject to bank approval. * Available through BPI Card in all participating reseller, except Octagon which accepts only Metrobank Cards. Accent Micro only accepts Citibank Cards. CompLink and HP Store Cebu only accepts Equitable Cards. * Star Features are only available on HP Pavilion a1349d Desktop PC. * Only available on HP Pavilion a1349d Desktop PC.

©2006 Hewlett-Packard Development Corp. L.P. Intel, Intel Logo, Intel Inside, Intel Inside Logo, Pentium and Pentium Inside are trademarks or registered trademarks of Intel Corporation or its subsidiaries in the United States and other countries. * Intel hyper-threading is not a requirement of higher performance. * The hyperthreading feature is a new technology designed to improve performance of multi-threaded software products. Please contact your software provider to determine software compatibility. Not all operating systems or software applications will benefit from the use of hyperthreading. Use to some Intel compatible processors for more information on Microsoft and Windows are U.S. Registered trademarks of Microsoft Corporation.



Per DTI-NCR Permit no 0676 Series of 2006

E-mail: pr_saturday_special@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Nestor U. Torre
Assistant Editor Rito P. Asilo

SATURDAY SPECIAL

Text us your feedback: Inquirer sat name/age or 283 (Smart)

NOW SHOWING

More paunch
than punch

ALONZO, PACQUIAO AND ROSALES. Boxing champ's bio flick doesn't pack as much wallop as it should.

By Rito P. Asilo

"Pacquiao"

D: Joel Lamangan
S: Jericho Rosales, Bea Alonzo

THE LIFE STORY OF WORLD BOXING CHAMP MANNY Pacquiao has the stuff that cinematic dreams are made of. But, despite its unquestionably talented leads—Jericho Rosales and Bea Alonzo as the gutsy pugilist and his wife, Jinkee, respectively—the bio flick director Joel Lamangan delivers doesn't pack as much wallop as it should.

In protracted perfunctory hit-and-miss punches, the Pacman's uneven film bio chronicles the life and times of the celebrated boxing hero. From his humble beginnings as a bright but poor student (played by Jiro Manio) in Mindanao, Manny defies poverty, a domineering mother (Jaclyn Jose) and a jealous wife as he stubbornly chases after a dream that takes him all the way to the top of his chosen sport.

Along the way, as shown in flashbacks that trudge along like an uneventful boxing bout, he makes grave mistakes (gambling, drugs, women, bad business choices, etc.) and learns—and obviously earns, based on countless product placements in the film—from them.

With the reliable Alonzo, who shines despite a one-note character, Rosales delivers a passionate performance that captures the spirit and spark that make Pacquiao tick. But, Jericho and Bea's performances are lost in the production's narrative clutter, and are compromised by the movie's slow pace, unexciting boxing matches, and a hectic story that wants to explore many things but only manages to say so much.

Lamangan does make a valid case about the cautionary rise of boxers who, in victory, proudly swagger like invincible warriors, only to totter like scared tots when the specter of defeat—and retirement—begins to haunt them.

"Kapag Tumibok ang Puso"

D: Wenn Deramas
S: Ramon "Bong" Revilla Jr., Ai-Ai de las Alas, Precious Lara Quigaman

We don't know what to make of this rom-com smorgasbord: When Marco (Ramon "Bong" Revilla Jr.) learns about the failed attempts on the life of Love (Ai-Ai de las Alas), a garish, foul-mouthed businesswoman who "inherited" his departed wife Sarah's (Miss International 2005 Precious Lara Quigaman) heart, he feels obligated to protect her.

Despite strong opposition from family and friends, he soon finds himself drawn to the caustic, uniquely kooky charms of Love. But, does this unlikely couple's budding romance stand a chance? Love does move in zany, mysterious ways, and, in Marco and Love's case, it really does.

To be fair, some well-thought-out gags generate hearty chuckles ("Wowowee's" Janelle Jamer engages in a dead-on impersonation of Rufa Mae Quinto). But, despite a largely comic cast and a catchy theme song (remade with gusto by Toni Gonzaga and, in a more sedate version, by DeeJay Durano), the movie is dragged down by several factors: Comic scenes that plateau long before they manage to deliver their trite punchlines; Ai-Ai's heavy-handed comedy; Bong's increasingly unbecoming paunch, and Bong and Ai-Ai's awkward, wince-worthy romantic sequences.

The movie's jarring continuity gaffs don't help, either: When Marco and Love's kids (Aaron Junatas and Kiray Celis, respectively) figure in a fight, they start exchanging blows—before they leave for school in the morning. The succeeding frame, however, shows Marco and Love putting a stop to the kid's duel when they come home from a date in the evening!

The production, though, has one bright spot in the person of Inah Revilla, who plays her father's daughter in the movie. Sure, the pretty young lass still has a lot to learn in the acting department, but she exudes a refreshing presence on the big screen—and that's more than we can say for many of show biz's current pretty but bland newcomers.

FREE PRINTS

on Kodak Royal Digital Paper.

For every 25 4R pictures printed on Kodak Royal Digital Paper, get 5 4R pictures FREE. With Kodak Royal Digital Paper, enjoy sharing brighter, crisper, vivid pictures everytime.



Print your digital files from CD, flash discs and memory cards. Promo is available on both film and digital photofinishing.

visit www.kodak.com.ph and www.kodakgallery.com.ph

Promo period is from June 1 to July 31, 2006. Redemption is until August 30, 2006.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1342, Series of 2006.

SM Advantage exclusive

SM ADVANTAGE

Mall
Treats

Presenting the latest list of SM Mall establishments where you can avail of exclusive privileges.

* Offers are subject to change without prior notice.
Offers may not be availed of in conjunction with other discounts or promos.
Offers valid only at SM branches. Free items are subject to availability.

shoes
& apparel

services

specialty
stores

food

8880 8885 1234 5678
PAMELA R. GARCIA

Just present your card at these stores in SM Supermalls to avail of exclusive privileges and perks* you can share with family and friends.

BDO Rewards Cardholders also enjoy this special privilege!

Check the Lifestyle Section every other week for the latest in SM Advantage promos and highlights.

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS MOVIE GUIDE



CINEMA ACCESS
635-5555
FOR ALL BRANCHES

www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

MOVIES/SCHEDULES/PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

GALLERIA

1 LAKE HOUSE • THX 1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50	6 THE FAST AND THE FURIOUS 3 12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00
2 SCARY MOVIE 4 11:20 1:25 3:30 5:35 7:40 9:50	7 AN AMERICAN HAUNTING
3 WHORE 12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00	8 CARS 12:00 2:30 GARFIELD 2 6:35 7:40 9:45
4 PACQUIAO the MOVIE 11:20 1:25 3:30 5:35 7:40 9:45	9 KAPAG TUMBOK ANG PUSO 12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00
5 THE NUN 11:35 1:40 3:45 5:50 7:55 10:00	10 THE DA VINCI CODE

ERMITA

1 SCARY MOVIE 4 12:20 2:20 4:20 6:20 8:25 10:00	5 THE NUN 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50
2 AN AMERICAN HAUNTING	6 WHORE 12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00
3 THE FAST AND THE FURIOUS 3 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50	7 KAPAG TUMBOK ANG PUSO 11:00 3:20 LAKE HOUSE 5:45 7:45 9:50
4 PACQUIAO THE MOVIE 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50	

METRO EAST

1 KAPAG TUMBOK ANG PUSO 1:05 3:45 6:25 9:05	5 AN AMERICAN HAUNTING 11:50 2:10 4:30 6:50 9:10
2 SCARY MOVIE 4 11:20 1:45 4:15 6:45 9:15	6 LAKE HOUSE 12:50 2:50 4:50 6:50 9:00
3 THE FAST AND THE FURIOUS 3 12:05 2:15 4:25 6:35 9:00	7 GARFIELD 2 12:30 2:40 4:50 7:00 9:10
4 CARS 12:00 2:25 4:50 GARFIELD 2 7:15 9:00	8 THE NUN 12:30 2:40 4:50 7:00 9:10

NOVALICHES

1 THE FAT AND THE FURIOUS 3	4 LAKE HOUSE
2 PACQUIAO THE MOVIE	5 KAPAG TUMBOK ANG PUSO
3 SCARY MOVIE 4	6 THE NUN

CINISQUARE MALABON

1 PACQUIAO THE MOVIE
2 KAPAG TUMBOK ANG PUSO
3 RESERVE
4 RESERVE

PIONEER

1 SCARY MOVIE 4
2 THE NUN
3 PACQUIAO THE MOVIE
4 LAKE HOUSE

BUY YOUR TICKETS IN ADVANCE!
TICKETS are AVAILABLE at the ticket booth from
JUNE 21 to JUNE 27

GALLERIA | ERMITA | METRO EAST
PIONEER | NOVALICHES | MALABON
STA. ROSA | IMUS | DASMARINAS
LIPA | SAN FERNANDO, PAMPANGA
ANGELES | BACOLOD | ILOILO

SMART MONEY MOBILE PAYMENT
also accepted
Just text - store code - space - amount -
and send to 270

OPENS JUNE 28
AT ALL ROBINSON'S
MOVIEWORLD
BRANCHES!

STA. ROSA

(049) 837-0807

LIPA

(043) 757-3664
(043) 312-9870

1 SCARY MOVIE 4	1 THE OMEN
2 GARFIELD 2	2 KAPAG TUMBOK ANG PUSO
3 PACQUIAO THE MOVIE	3 CARS
4 KAPAG TUMBOK ANG PUSO	4 PACQUIAO THE MOVIE
	5 SCARY MOVIE 4

DASMARINAS

1 KAPAG TUMBOK ANG PUSO
2 THE DA VINCI CODE
3 THE OMEN
4 FAILURE TO LAUNCH

ANGELES

1 THE FAST AND THE FURIOUS 3
2 KAPAG TUMBOK ANG PUSO
3 PACQUIAO THE MOVIE
4 SCARY MOVIE 4

IMUS

1 CHAOS
2 SCARY MOVIE 4
3 KAPAG TUMBOK ANG PUSO
4 PACQUIAO THE MOVIE

STARMILLS

1 FAILURE TO LAUNCH
2 PACQUIAO THE MOVIE
3 KAPAG TUMBOK ANG PUSO
4 SCARY MOVIE 4
5 LAKE HOUSE
6 THE INSIDE MAN

BACOLOD

1 SCARY MOVIE 4
2 CARS
3 PACQUIAO THE MOVIE
4 THE OMEN
5 GARFIELD 2
6 KAPAG TUMBOK ANG PUSO

ILOILO

1 CARS
2 PACQUIAO THE MOVIE
3 SCARY MOVIE 4
4 GARFIELD 2
5 THE INSIDE MAN
6 THE OMEN



The Perfect Gift
All Year Round

A Pre Paid Movie Pass to the Hottest Seats in town.

Get Special discounts for volume purchases!

For marketing and event/reservations please call Marketing Services Department at 687-7945 to 47 locals 14 and 15

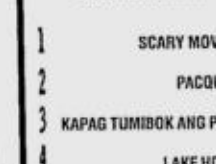
MMTA METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION MOVIE GUIDE NOW SHOWING



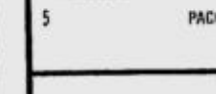
1000n LAKE HOUSE
2000n SCARY MOVIE-4
3000n CARS / GARFIELD - 2
4000n THE FAST & THE FURIOUS-3



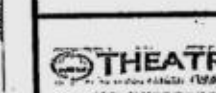
1000n AMERICAN HAUNTING
2000n SCARY MOVIE-4
3000n KAPAG TUMBOK ANG PUSO
4000n LAKE HOUSE



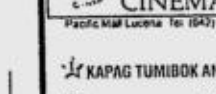
1000n SCARY MOVIE-4
2000n PACQUIAO
3000n KAPAG TUMBOK ANG PUSO
4000n LAKE HOUSE



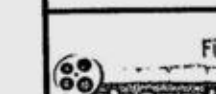
1000n KAPAG TUMBOK ANG PUSO
2000n SCARY MOVIE-4
3000n THE NUN
4000n PACQUIAO



1000n THE OMEN 666
2000n PACQUIAO
3000n KAPAG TUMBOK ANG PUSO



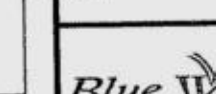
1000n KAPAG TUMBOK ANG PUSO
2000n PACQUIAO
3000n RESERVED
4000n RESERVED



1000n THE NUN
2000n CARS
3000n GARFIELD-2
4000n THE SECRET OF THE CODE
5000n THE FAST & THE FURIOUS-3
6000n SCARY MOVIE-4
7000n THE LAKE HOUSE
8000n KAPAG TUMBOK ANG PUSO
9000n AMERICAN HAUNTING
10000n PACQUIAO



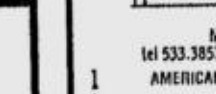
1000n KAPAG TUMBOK ANG PUSO
2000n PACQUIAO
3000n RESERVED
4000n RESERVED



1000n CARS
2000n THE NUN
3000n SCARY MOVIE - 4
4000n PACQUIAO



1000n THE NUN
2000n SCARY MOVIE - 4
3000n KAPAG TUMBOK ANG PUSO
4000n THE FAST & THE FURIOUS-3
5000n PACQUIAO

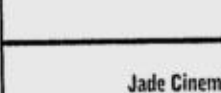


1000n THE OMEN 666
2000n PACQUIAO
3000n THE OMEN 666
4000n RESERVED

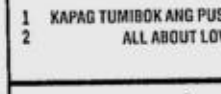
MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE



1 KAPAG TUMBOK ANG PUSO
2 PACQUIAO
3 AMERICAN HAUNTING



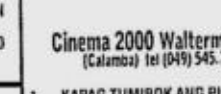
1000n THE FAST & THE FURIOUS-3
2000n KAPAG TUMBOK ANG PUSO
3000n SCARY MOVIE - 4
4000n PACQUIAO



1 KAPAG TUMBOK ANG PUSO
2 ALL ABOUT LOVE



1 KAPAG TUMBOK ANG PUSO
2 KAPAG TUMBOK ANG PUSO
3 KAPAG TUMBOK ANG PUSO
4 KAPAG TUMBOK ANG PUSO



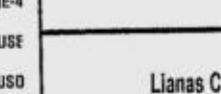
1 KAPAG TUMBOK ANG PUSO
2 KAPAG TUMBOK ANG PUSO
3 KAPAG TUMBOK ANG PUSO
4 KAPAG TUMBOK ANG PUSO



1 KAPAG TUMBOK ANG PUSO
2 KAPAG TUMBOK ANG PUSO
3 KAPAG TUMBOK ANG PUSO
4 KAPAG TUMBOK ANG PUSO



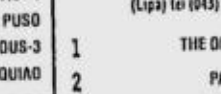
1 KAPAG TUMBOK ANG PUSO
2 KAPAG TUMBOK ANG PUSO
3 KAPAG TUMBOK ANG PUSO
4 KAPAG TUMBOK ANG PUSO



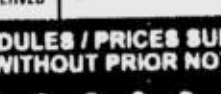
1 KAPAG TUMBOK ANG PUSO
2 KAPAG TUMBOK ANG PUSO
3 KAPAG TUMBOK ANG PUSO
4 KAPAG TUMBOK ANG PUSO



1 KAPAG TUMBOK ANG PUSO
2 KAPAG TUMBOK ANG PUSO
3 KAPAG TUMBOK ANG PUSO
4 KAPAG TUMBOK ANG PUSO



1 KAPAG TUMBOK ANG PUSO
2 KAPAG TUMBOK ANG PUSO
3 KAPAG TUMBOK ANG PUSO
4 KAPAG TUMBOK ANG PUSO



1 KAPAG TUMBOK ANG PUSO
2 KAPAG TUMBOK ANG PUSO
3 KAPAG TUMBOK ANG PUSO
4 KAPAG TUMBOK ANG PUSO

A2-1

SATURDAY, JUNE 24, 2006

Promising starlets gear up for stage musical

By Nestor U. Torre

RECENTLY, WE HAD THE PLEASURE of meeting with seven comely comers, TV talents who have expressed an interest in performing in musical theater as well.

The production they were auditioning for was especially big and significant, so interest in it was high. Happily, it was also matched by the young ladies' beauty, talent, seriousness of purpose, and vivacity.

Key role

Jamie Joaquin appears on Sharon Cuneta's Sunday show on Channel 2, and has sung a key role in a stage musical. Her dusky beauty and ability to express herself in an involving way should take her far in the field of entertainment—not just here, but internationally.

Say Alonzo turns out to be more interesting and vital in person than she was on the first edition of "Pinoy Big Brother." She bills herself as a natural comic, but yearns to tackle new challenges in drama and musical theater.

Paw Diaz was our best bet on the Star Circle Quest edition she joined some seasons ago, and it's a delight to see that she's honed her talents further after that competition. Pao has the talent and dedication not just to achieve stardom, but to make her own unique mark in show business.

Workshops

Only 16 years old, Pia Romero has been taking performance workshops for five years now, so she's more than ready to tackle a wide variety of roles of increasing importance.

Her younger sister, Sarah, is another outstanding young talent, with a quiet beauty that grows on



DIAZ. Talent and dedication.

you. Once she gets her act together, she should similarly come on strong in the biz in years to come.

Jenny Miller has been in show business for four years now, and her combination of beauty, talent and charisma should also take her far. She looks like a young Snooky Serna, but her temperament is uniquely her own.

Lookalike

Finally, Glaiza de Castro has been described as an Angel Locsin lookalike, but she has much more going for her. She comes from a family of band singers, and she has show business in her blood. But, she's prepared to go even farther than her relatives and achieve the stellar status and recognition she deserves.

We spent only a few hours with these talented young women, but we were impressed with their potential. We were also gratified to see that, unlike many other female starlets with "xerox" looks and performance styles, these seven talents were unique individuals and performers in their own right.

That means that, after the "clones" shall have faded away from the scene, they should still be very much around!

Kundirana marks milestone

By Andy Bais

WHAT DO GARY VALENCIANO, Dingdong Avanzado, Randy Santiago, Mel Villena and Louie Ocampo have in common? They're all products of Kundirana, La Salle Greenhills' popular all-male singing group.

To mark its 35th anniversary this year, the group will stage a special concert at the CCP Main Theater on July 1 at 8 p.m. This year's batch, which has just returned from a successful US tour, will be joined by alumni from 1971 to 2005. Special guests include Pilita Corrales, Jackie Lou Blanco, and Ogie Alcasid, another Kundirana alumnus.

Fortunate

Songwriter and musical arranger Dingdong Eduque, a member of the original batch, makes it a point to watch Kundirana shows when his schedule allows it. He explains: "These shows allow me to relive my youth all over again. I feel fortunate that I don't just get to watch them this time, I also get to arrange their songs."

For his part, Dingdong shares that what he has become, he owes to Kundirana. Now, he feels



KUNDIRANA. Holds anniversary concert at CCP.

it's his turn to give something back. "Kundirana was my training ground. In my time, the members did everything from music arranging and choreography to set and costume design."

Original batch

Another member of the original batch, Fr. Dennis Maim, celebrates mass once a month in De La Salle Greenhills to reach out to the young members of the group.

The CCP concert will feature songs that are included in the group's commemorative CD, like Louie Ocampo's "You Are My Song," Ogie Alcasid's "Kailangan Kita," Gary Valenciano's "Lifting Us Higher" and Monter Acoymo's "Dalawang Tinig." Call 721-8914.

Natural healing

THERE IS A NATURAL AND INEXPENSIVE way to alleviate suffering from diseases: Using a warm compress. To do this, simply soak a washcloth in an herbal infusion and place it over strategic parts of the body.

Advantage

How does this help? In the book, "The Chinese Way to Healing: Many Paths to Wholeness," Misha Ruth Cohen explains: "Warm compresses have the advantage of directly delivering concentrated heat and herbal infusions into spots that need attention. They are recommended for chronic and acute stomach problems, gynecologic discomfort, headache, strains and sprains. Here are infusions used to dispel stagnant chi or life energy:

"Ginger infusions consist of 1/3 large ginger root (grated or finely-chopped); a square of unbleached cheesecloth or katcha, and two quarts of boiled water. Place grated ginger in a square of cheesecloth and securely tie it. Put this in a pan with two quarts of water, and boil for 10 minutes.

LOTUS POND

R. Valencia and S. Bismark

Remove bag, set aside, and soak washcloth in ginger brew, then apply over troubled area. Repeat until you feel warm and comfortable.

Aroma

"For cough relief, make a compress as described above, but, instead of ginger, use leaves of peppermint or spearmint. Apply compress to upper chest, and breathe in mint aroma.

"To alleviate fever, place four drops of eucalyptus oil on a washcloth saturated with cool water. Place on chest and breathe deeply. Repeat until body temperature decreases."

These are simple remedies, but they are natural and effective. Happy healing!



SALUTES

BAMBOO!

AWIT AWARDS

Album of the Year • Best in Rock • Best Song of the Year • Best in Ballad
• Best Live Performance by a Group • People's Choice Award

And the music plays the Band, indeed! Since their debut in 2004, Bamboo continues to rock the nation by storm. The band's intense passion and talent for music has long been causing a nationwide stir. Their powerful and patriotic lyrics run deep into the hearts and minds of Filipinos, especially the youth. Such achievement deserves a high, if not the highest commendation.

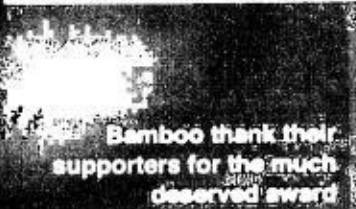
In the recently held AWIT Awards co-hosted by MTV, Bamboo got their fair share of glory. SMART Buddy congratulates Bamboo for bagging six major awards: Album of the Year ("Light, Peace, Love"), Best in Rock ("Hallelujah"), Best Song of the Year ("Hallelujah"), Best in Ballad ("Much Has Been Said"), Best Live Performance by a Group, and the People's Choice Award ("Hallelujah").

The best definitely recognizes their kind. SMART Buddy, the number one prepaid service in the country is very proud to have Bamboo as part of its winning family of endorsers.

From the SMART Buddy gang to Bamboo, the warmest congratulations. Much-deserved!



Bamboo's electrifying performance during the awards night.



Bamboo thank their supporters for the much deserved award.



**Sun is now BIGGER and BETTER,
giving you more calls and texts.**

Increased Capacity



**We've more than doubled our
network capacity and will continue
to expand our coverage.**

Every year, we have been investing P11 billion for more cell sites with even more capacity per cell site. As a result, our network capacity will increase to 6 million subscribers by year-end from 4 million subscribers now. Everyone can enjoy faster connections, best value products and services like 24/7 Call and Text Unlimited, 24/7 Text Unlimited and Daylite Call and Text Unlimited.

Watch us get even BIGGER, when we expand to more parts of the Philippines.

With more network capacity, WE CAN GIVE YOU MUCH BETTER SERVICES.

Make that switch now!



SUN
CELLULAR
Better network, better value.

SATURDAY

Definitive compilation from New Order

By Noelani Torre

THERE HAVE BEEN MORE THAN A FEW New Order compilation albums released throughout the band's 25 years of existence. There's 1987's "Substance," 1995's "The Best of New Order" and "The Rest of New Order," and 2002's "International" and the four-disc box set, "Retro." In fact, they nearly outnumber the band's actual album releases, of which there have only been eight.

Five compilation albums were apparently not enough for the Manchester foursome, however, inasmuch as they've recently given us a sixth—"Singles," a two-disc collection of the band's songs.

Anthologies

Usually, when bands start to assault the public with their "best of" and "greatest hits" anthologies, people start to think along the lines of if-they-can't-come-up-with-new-stuff-maybe-they're-going-into-a-decline.

But, New Order released a very well-received disc of spanking new material last year ("Waiting for the Sirens' Call"). Besides, they've never been known for doing the usual.

Certainly, when Ian Curtis, the celebrated singer of Joy Division, killed himself in 1980, nobody expected that the remaining band members would eventually go on to form a group whose achievement would rival that of their former band's.

Renamed New Order—with Peter Hook on bass, Stephen Morris on drums, new member Gilliam Gilbert on keyboards, and guitarist Bernard Sumner stepping into Curtis' shoes—they managed to transform tragedy into a success story—not that they were untouched by Curtis' sudden death.

The first singles they released as New Order have desolate quality lurking under their deceptively smooth melodies, and through

the years, their music has retained this awareness of the bleaker things in life.

You can trace the development of this music in the 31-track double-disc, and more than two hours-long singles collection, "Singles."

With the tracks arranged chronologically, the compilation provides a comprehensive overview of their growth from a somewhat uncertain post-Joy Division group to one of the most significant and innovative bands of their generation.

NEW ORDER. Through the years, the band's music has retained its awareness of the bleaker things in life.

As the write-up on the inlay puts it, "New Order was always about journeys, and you see that nowhere more clearly than in the singles."

The collection's first disc covers New Order's exciting and groundbreaking years, while the second spans the late '80s to the still rocking and dancing present. This may be their sixth compilation album, but it is arguably the most definitive—and definitely worth grabbing.

Cherry Pie is on a roll

By Andy Bais

FOR CHERRY PIE Picache, when it rains, it really pours. She has just earned critical acclaim for her performance in the soon-to-be-released "Kaleido" where, for the first time, she plays a lesbian. In "Manay Po," she was hilarious as the liberated mother of three gay boys.

Next month, Picache will once again grace the big screen in Seiko Films' heartwarming family-oriented movie, "I Wanna Be Happy."

In her latest screen outing, Cherry Pie plays the daughter of Gloria Romero and Eddie Garcia. She relates: "Para akong si Tita Glo dito, whose life revolves around her husband and children. I turn a blind eye to my husband's (Christian Vazquez) philandering, but there's a twist in the end. The movie is hilarious without trying hard to be funny. Kitang-kita ang tatak ni (writer and director) Joey Reyes. Nakakatawa ang dialogue at situations."

Frustrated

Cherry Pie has lost count of the movies she has done with Reyes. She shares: "He was one of the directors na nagtiyaga sa akin when I was starting out. A few years back, when I became frustrated with my movie career and decided to quit acting, si Joey ang nagbigay sa akin ng magandang break sa 'Makati Avenue.' I always played the role of the leading lady's best friend. But, with Joey as director, naging special ang performances ko!"

She plays another supporting role in "I Wanna Be Happy," but Cherry Pie doesn't mind. "Mahaba ang role ko, and I really loved the script. May sarili kasi akong story, kaya masarap himayin," she explains.

Working with Gloria Romero and Eddie Garcia was memorable for her: "I wish I was already an actor during their time. Sa kanila, makikita mo ang aura, elegance at dignity ng pagiging artista."

Special treatment

"They're always on the set 30 minutes before call time. Gusto ko silang maunahan, pero hindi ko magawa! They each had only one assistant—si Tito Eddie, driver lang. And they were unassuming, they didn't expect to be given special treatment. Younger actors can learn a lot from them."

We kidded Cherry Pie about her being a favorite Seiko "talent" of late. "I Wanna Be Happy" is her third film in a row for the production outfit—after her critically-acclaimed turns in "Bridal Shower" and "Bikini Open," where she's again in the running in the best actress category at this year's Star Awards. She admits: "I am very grateful to Tito Robbie Tan. Sana, kumita ang aming latest film, para ma-encourage siya to produce more wholesome movies!"



PICACHE. Memorable experience filming with Romero and Garcia.

Motorola RAZR V3

As low as P551.14 @ Plan 350
• Built-in Camera, GPRS, WAP
• Melomixer Composer
• Bluetooth
• JAVA-capable

Samsung X660

As low as P350.24 @ Plan 350
• Tri-band
• Camera with Digital Zoom
• Video Messaging and Recording
• MMS, JAVA-capable, Infrared

Motorola L6

As low as P321.50 @ Plan 350
• Super Slim (10.9mm)
• Camera with 4x Digital Zoom
• Video Recording and Playback
• MMS, GPRS, WAP, USB
• Bluetooth, Built-in Handsfree Speaker

Sony Ericsson W550i

As low as P950.71 @ Plan 600
• Stereo-Widening, Mega Bass
• 1.3 Megapixel Camera, 4x Digital Zoom with Photo Light
• Game Buttons with Premium In-ear Earbuds

02 XDA II Mini

As low as P1,920.98 @ Plan 1000
• Integrated Personal Digital Organizer and Mobile Phone
• Windows Media Player
• Built-in Bluetooth, Infrared
• 1.3 Megapixel Camera

Nokia 6101

As low as P293.94 @ Plan 600
• Built-in Camera and Video Recorder
• Dual Color Displays with Large Font Size Option
• Stereo FM Radio, Tri-band

Nokia 7360

As low as P385.88 @ Plan 600
• Metal, Leather and Translucent Surfaces
• Integrated Camera and Video Recorder
• Tri-band, GPRS, WAP, EDGE, FM Radio

Sony Ericsson K750i

As low as P652.18 @ Plan 1000
• 2 Megapixel Camera, 4x Digital Zoom with Photo Light
• Built-in FM Radio and Music Player
• Video Recorder, Tri-band

Here's your chance to own your dream phone.

At 0% interest, you can now enjoy the latest phone for as low as P293.94 monthly, payable in 12 months*.

Credit cards accepted: Equitable Bank, Diners, BPI and other major credit cards.

Selected handsets may be available at 0% interest, with a minimum SRP of P3,000.



Monthly Installment for 12 Months

Model	Plan 350	Plan 600	Plan 1000	Plan 2000	Plan 3500
Motorola L6	321.50	N/A	FREE	FREE	FREE
Samsung X660	358.24	N/A	FREE	FREE	FREE
Nokia 7360	633.81	385.80	N/A	FREE	FREE
Nokia 6101	734.85	293.94	FREE	FREE	FREE
Motorola RAZR V3	964.49	551.14	FREE	FREE	FREE
Sony Ericsson W550i	1,166.57	950.71	642.99	FREE	FREE
Sony Ericsson K750i	1,607.48	1,175.76	652.18	FREE	FREE
02 XDA II Mini	2,847.54	2,388.26	1,928.98	551.14	FREE

* 3-month and 6-month terms also available.
Note: Handsets are with 24-month holding period.

When applying for your postpaid line, bring a valid I.D. and your latest competitor bill. If competitor bill is not available, bring Proof of Billing and Proof of Income.
The Sun Shopper Metro Manila | Robinsons Galleria | Sola North Edge | Sola Alagang | Sola Alagang | Robinsons Alagang | Park Square One | Robinsons Alagang East | Sola Fairview | Sola Centropoint | Sola San Lazaro
Sola Valenzuela | Greenhills | Shangri-la Plaza | Robinsons Cebu | Robinsons Plaza Pioneer | North Luzon | Robinsons Starmills | Sola Manila | Sola Baguio | Robinsons Angeles | South Luzon | Robinsons Sta. Rosa
Robinsons Iloilo | Robinsons Davao | Robinsons Legaspi | Sola Bacoor | Sola Malinao | Sola Southmoro | Filmvest Festival Mall | Sola Baguio | Sola Lucena | Visayas | Robinsons Iloilo | Robinsons Cebu | Robinsons Bacolod
Sola Cebu | Ayala Center Cebu | Mindampao | Sola Davao | Gensan Davao | Robinsons Cagayan de Oro

SUN
CELLULAR
Better network, better value.
Hotline: 395-8800 www.suncellular.com.ph

SATURDAYSpecial

A3-2

Eye-catching picture book about the Constitution

By Nestor U. Torre

PARENTS AND TEACHERS WHO worry about Filipino youths' lack of awareness about nationhood and patriotism will be glad to know that a children's picture book has been published that seeks to make the Philippine Con-

stitution understandable and interesting to the country's young people.

Launched last June 19, the values formation book, titled "As a Filipino," is written and illustrated by Marcy Dans Lee, who was inspired by Maria Gonzales-Goolsby, Unionbank CSR execu-

tive director. The book is sponsored by Unionbank, Adarna House and the Department of Education.

Curriculum

It will be integrated into the public schools curriculum at the Grades 2 and 3 levels. Call 372-3548 or email adarnahouse@adarna.com.ph.

With eye-catching illustrations and verses, Lee encourages young readers to think about such otherwise "heavy" topics as Faith in God, Unity, Patriotism, Work, Respect for Life, Respect for Law and Government, Truth, Justice, Freedom, Love, Equality, Peace, Promotion of the Common Good, Concern for Family and Future Generations, Concern for the Environment, and Order.

The English verses come with a Filipino translation, titled "Bilang Isang Filipino," by Nina Luis Diego Lee and Antonia Beatrice Lee.

Despite the picture book's child-friendly look and tone, children reading it should be guided by their teachers or parents, to discuss and further clarify the topics and values it depicts.

Since "As a Filipino" is for children, its characters are all young, the better for children to relate to them.

Classes

Marcy Dans Lee's love for children's books began at a very young age, when she assisted in the summer art classes conducted by her mother, noted artist and educator Araceli Limacao Dans.

After graduating from the UP College of Fine Arts, Marcy taught Art at the Maryknoll Child Study Center. Fusing her art with her experiences with children, she began writing and illustrating books for young readers.

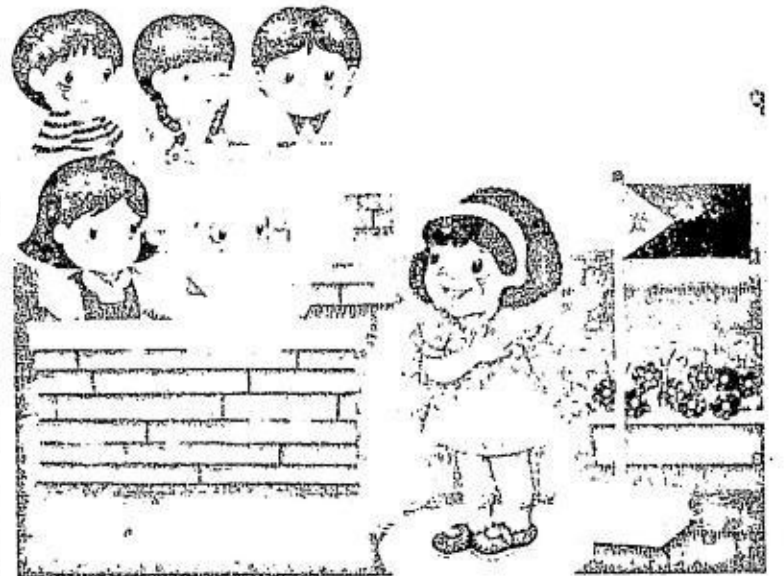


LEE.
Exceptional
artistry and
love for
children.

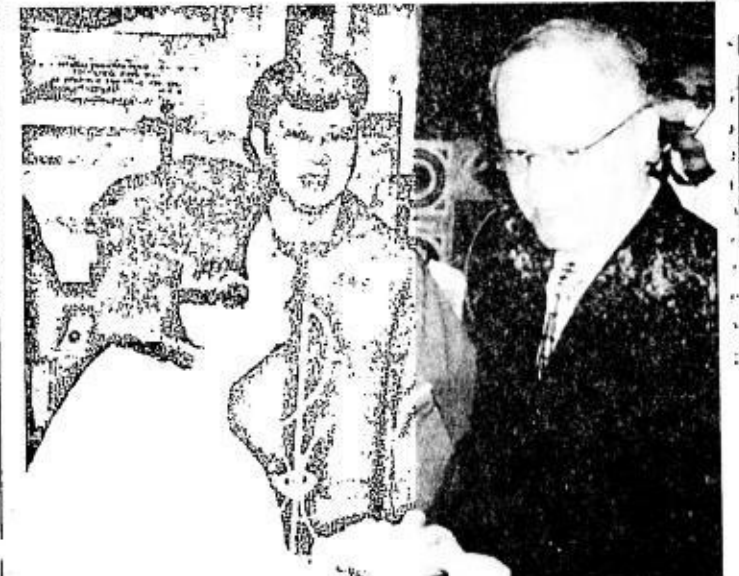
Her first book, "Ibon, I'Oiseau des Philippines," was published in Paris, France, where she lived for four years. Returning to the Philippines, she taught at the UP College of Fine Arts and was the chairperson of its Department of Visual Communication.

In 1996, she established the UP Mindanao Cultural Center in Davao City, and taught Children's Literature there. Recently, she was appointed as head of UP Mindanao's Human Resources Development Office.

Marcy's other children's books include "Luis and the Enchanted Creatures," "The Crocodile and the Colorful Headbands," "Laon and the Seven-Headed Dragon," "The Girl Who Loved to Sing," and "Thrice as Nice."



"AS A FILIPINO." Child-friendly look and tone.



SILVER WEDDING VOWS

Two Filipino broadcast executives renewed their silver wedding vows in special rites at the Vatican, following a pilgrimage to Lourdes, France. RPN's Edith and IBC's Bob del Rosario were feted by a group of 15, including Anak TV officials, Edgardo Roces, Elvira Yap Go and Mag Cruz Hatol. Ivy Violan honored the couple with Filipino love songs during the solemn exchange of vows held at the basement crypt of St. Peter's Basilica.

Following . . . From page A3-6

among Gary's trademark dance steps. He adds, "When you're tired, you'll forget the stress because the adrenaline rush is so powerful. Masaya talaga!" The singing and dancing duo will soon collaborate on an album that features Gab's remixed versions of Gary's dance tunes.

Biggest fans

Fathers and sons concur that they are each other's biggest fans—but not necessarily their worst critics. "Bilib ako dahil sariling kayod ang ginawa n'ya para

makuha ang gusto niya," Pen says of Ping, who shone as Kuya Bogs in last year's "Ang Pagdadalaga ni Maximo Oliveros." "Sa pag-arte, may pinagmanahan! Nagko-comment lang ako 'pag nagtatanong siya. Pinupuri ko 'pag kapuri."

Ping returns the compliment: "Sa lahat ng napapanood ko, magaling siya. Consistency is what I strive for."

Gab also gushes about Gary: "My dad is my idol—he's someone I look up to, and I'm very proud of him!"

EASTWOOD CINEMAS

TICKETS FOR
SUPERMAN RETURNS
NOW AVAILABLE

For inquiries, call:
687-6963
GUARANTEED SEATS
MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

1	FAST & FURIOUS 3 1:20, 3:45, 6:10, 8:35, 11:00 PG-13
2	LAKE HOUSE 1:40, 4:00, 6:20, 8:40, 11:00 GP
3	SCARY MOVIE 4 12:05, 2:15, 4:25, 6:35, 8:45, 10:55 R-13
4	CARS 11:50, 2:30, 5:10, 7:50, 10:30 GP

GREENHILLS CINEMAS
GREENHILLS SHOPPING CENTER, ORTIGAS AVENUE, GREENHILLS, SAN JUAN, METRO MANILA

THEATRE MALL
NOW SHOWING

1	THE NUN 12:10, 2:20, 4:30, 6:40, 8:50 R13	2	CARS 11:40, 2:15, 4:50, 7:25, 10:00 GP
---	---	---	--

PROMENADE
NOW SHOWING

3	FAST & THE FURIOUS 11:30, 1:50, 4:10, 6:30, 8:50 PG13	4	THE LAKE HOUSE 10:45, 1:30, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00 PG13	5	SCARY MOVIE 10:40, 1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00 R13
---	---	---	--	---	--

TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. FOR CINEMA INQUIRIES, CALL: 722-4496.

MUSIC MUSEUM
JUNE 23-24, 2006
NINA in VERY MANILOW
GLADYS GUEVARA
9:00PM
8:00PM

THEATRE MALL
EVERY MONDAY
JUNE 23 & 24, 2006
DANCE NIGHT
7:00PM
WE'RE STILL HOT "THE MUSICAL"
FOR INQUIRIES PLS CALL 722-4532 LOC 116
8:00PM

FOR INQUIRIES & RESERVATION, PLS. CALL: 721-6726 OR 721-0635

NOW SHOWING
MTRCB R-13 | STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS OF AGE AND UP

PRAY
YOU
DON'T
SEE HER

A FILM BY LUIS DE LA MADRID

THE NUN

SHOCKING!...CONTROVERSIAL!
A MUST-SEE MOVIE FOR BELIEVERS & NON-BELIEVERS

NOW SHOWING
BASED ON DAN BURNSTEIN'S
NO. 1 NEW YORK TIMES
BEST-SELLER

TRUTH
OR
LIES?
Only
one film
solves out
the puzzles
and takes
on the
controversies.

FROM 2-TIME ACADEMY AWARDS® NOMINEE DIRECTOR
JONATHAN STACK

**SECRETS
OF THE
CODE**

3RD WEEK
MTRCB G | ALL AGES ADMITTED

Disney PIXAR
Cars

Distributed by: Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures

MTRCB G | GENERAL PATRONAGE | ALL AGES ADMITTED

HIS MAJESTY IS BACK.

GABRIEL 2

NOW SHOWING

NOW SHOWING
MTRCB G | ALL AGES ARE ADMITTED

Keanu Reeves
Sandra Bullock

THE LAKE HOUSE
How do you hold on to someone you've never met?

Caricatures still hold sway in local movies

By Behn Cervantes

AS THE BEARDED VILLAIN GUFFAWS, HE darts a lascivious look at the beautiful damsel in distress—his evil intentions clear for all to see! He leers at her cleavage and thighs with eyes that are as dark as they are fierce. His expression spells S-E-X—and our heroine is in grave danger! So, we pray that lightning hits him where it matters most. This isn't a man, this is a beast of the worst kind!

Predictable

I hate these predictable scenes. It's hard to sympathize with the abused woman: I wonder why she doesn't fight back and give him a good kick where it would hurt most. I wonder what goes on inside the actor's mind when he comes up with such ludicrous acting. I mean, gone are the days of melodrama when evil was black and virtue was as white as the driven snow.

What irritates me about these overdone scenes is that they are passé. So, why do directors keep including such sequences in their movies? Shouldn't actors know better when they are directed in such a manner? —Unless, of course, the scenes were meant as a spoof.

When these sequences appear, I remember the likes of Hollywood's Jack Elam and Ernest Borgnine, and, on the local scene, Johnny Montiero, Romy Diaz and Dick Israel. Even Eddie Garcia has created his vintage villainous characters. But, I'm surprised that this type of acting still reigns in the movies today, as many would-be Dick Isaacs continue to act in that same predictable manner.

Definition

Whenever a leading lady is to be mauled in a scene, she will most probably be abused by a character actor whose definition of "character" is limited to (very) bad acting. Subtlety has nothing to do with evil. The devil from hell has got to be black, and his role models are usually wild animals like foxes, apes, wolves—or thirsty, blood-sucking vampires. How tiresome!

Of course, lady villains do their own thing: They put on too much make-up, wear the highest heels, are dressed in slinky garb, and look like they've just come from the beauty salon. Everything is in place—except their morals!

And they are taas-kilay, of course! Mestizas like Cherie Gil and Jackielou Blanco have taken over the roles once done to death by the likes of Bella Flores and Zeny Zabala.

Privilege

Those malditas not only had the "privilege" of slapping the leading lady, they even intended to steal the dashing leading man! However, in the late '70s, director Joey Gosiengfiao had the leading lady slap the evil woman back—what a surprise!

Guess what? Scores of movies soon after aped the (once effective) tit for tat slapping scene. But, as Cherie Gil enunciated so effectively to Sharon Cuneta in another oft-copied scene, who needs "a second-rate, trying-hard copy-cat?" —Another scene I am so tired of!

Tracing roots through public service

TO OBSERVE the late Eugenio Lopez Sr.'s 105th birth anniversary on July 20, his children has initiated four social development programs in Jaro to benefit the hometown of their father.

First is a six-month feeding program with Bantay Bata 163 to help reduce malnutrition in over 40 barangays. Second is an initiative to provide houses to 50 families.

Training

Third, to provide education and training for students and teachers in 15 public elementary and three public high schools through the combined efforts of the Knowledge Channel and the ABS-CBN Foundation. And fourth, a program for responsible parenthood that aims to provide health care and youth counseling.

Oscar M. Lopez, chairman of the Lopez Group of Companies, is sustaining his family's long history of philanthropy, public service, nationalistic involvement and entrepreneurship.

Email mandynavasero@yahoo.com.ph, or call 899-1767.

RINA Lopez-Bautista and brother Jay Lopez help build a Gawad Kalinga house in Jaro.



STREET SMART



Mandy Navasero



GIL. The first-rate villainess is no copycat, of course.

EFFECTS AT YOUR FEET!

Check out Behringer's New Line of Guitar Stomp Boxes at any Electronics Depot outlet.

BASS BD121 EQ700 PB100 OD100 HELLBABE HB01

More models at the store or visit www.behringer.com

electronics depot

Robinson's Galleria 634.5554 • Robinson's Manila 302.0418
SM Mega Mall 633.3261 • Festival Mall 775.0595
Alimall 995.0397 • Park Square 1, Makati 752.7066

Ulan ng saya sa QTV sa dami ng mala-bagyong NEW SHOWS!

Para ngayong 5:00 ng hapon:

Babalin kayo ng kilig at emosyon sa pinakabagong teen drama! Starring: Iwa, Gian, Nikki and PJ.

Namamagandang sa June 26!

Sapul ang pulso ng mga kwentong pakaabangan! Anchored by Ivan Mayrina with Valerie Tan

Titlok nang 1000 kph ang inyong mga puso sa pinakabagong Aslanovela sa primetime!

Kasabukugang namanagapalo!

Patuloy ang pag-ulan ng mga tips para makalwas sa panggaganchol! Hosted by Leo Martinez with Maureen Larrazabal

Alamin ang kabuuang detalye sa mga updates ni Heidi Habagat!

Channel 11

Indies, classics at Cinema One filmfest

By Rito P. Asilo

DENNIS MARASIGAN'S critically-acclaimed digital feature, "Sa North Diversion Road," is a meditative examination of love and infidelity that features John Arcilla and Irma Adlawan, who play an exhausting array of characters—10 each!

The brave duo delivers a thespic high-wire act and often succeeds in portraying different but somewhat interrelated couples who discuss the whimsical vagaries of living and loving as they drive along the North Diversion Road.

Mixed results

The film, currently being screened at the Cinema One festival of digital movies and Filipino film classics in SM Megamall and SM Manila until tomorrow, treads the fine line that separates film and the legitimate stage—with mixed results.

One of last year's better films, Marasigan's movie is fresh, thoughtful, tragic, hilarious and appropriately farcical, and uses the lengthy highway as a metaphor for marriage and relationships.



ARCILLA. Thespic high-wire act.

It deftly showcases the director's ability to explore text and character. The script, however, can get annoyingly repetitive, engages the actors in unnecessarily long-winded discussions, and further confounds the narrative clutter when it strays away from its focus on marriage and ventures into the topic of death. But, when the segments work, they're memorably

searing and gut-wrenching.

Topel Lee's "Dilim," on the other hand, has an interesting premise: Set in violent Manila in the near future, it tells the story of an honest cop (Archie Adamos) who's hot on the heels of Dilim (Mario Magalona), a mysterious vigilante who goes after the bad guys and helps kids and damsels in distress—including the cop's daughter, Elisa (Rica Peralejo), whom he rescues from the brother of a feared gangster, Brasko (Emilio Garcia).

When Dilim kills Brasko's brother to save Elisa, the predator—who later turns out to be a manananggal—becomes the prey! Really now. Inspired but unfocused, the movie also boasts of impressive camerawork and good performances from Magalona, Peralejo and Adamos.

Exciting list

Aside from its roster of digital productions like "North Diversion," "Dilim," Denisa Reyes and Mark Gacy's "Sandalang Bahay," and Lisa Cornejo's "Sitak," the current festival also features an exciting list of award-winning

and groundbreaking local movies that the younger generation of cineastes ought to make a beeline for.

Lineup

Consider the lineup: Lamberto Avellana's "Portrait of the Artist as Filipino"; Peque Gallaga's "Oro, Plata, Mata"; Ishmael Bernal's "City After Dark (Manila by Night)" and "Salawahan"; Lino Brocka's "Maynila, Sa Mga Kuko ng Liwanag" and "Bona"; Joey Gosiengfiao's "Temptation Island"; the Dolphy-starrer "Omeng Satanasia," and the Eddie Romero-Gerardo de Leon collaboration, "Intramuros: The Walls of Hell," starring Jock Mahoney and Fernando Poe Jr.

Screenings in Megamall today: "City After Dark," 11 a.m.; "Anak ng Tinapa," 1 p.m.; "Sandalang Bahay," 2:30 p.m.; "Mga Anak ni Brocka," 5 p.m.; "Bona," 8 p.m.; "Portrait of the Artist as Filipino," 10 p.m. Tomorrow: "Dilim," 11 a.m.; "Sitak," 1 p.m.; "Sa North Diversion Road," 3 p.m.; "Intramuros: The Walls of Hell," 5 p.m.; "Sandalang Bahay," 7 p.m., and Laurice Guillen's "Salome," 9 p.m.

'Solomonic' solution to impasse over FPJ's award

By Nestor U. Torre

WHEN THE LATE Fernando Poe Jr. was chosen as one of the country's latest batch of National Artists, the expectation was that his widow, Susan Rocas, would accept the award on his behalf during the conferment rites at Malacañang Palace.

All too soon, however, that fond expectation was shot down with the forthright announcement that Ms Rocas would do no such thing, for obvious reasons.

Family friend

Next, people hoped that other members of the Poe family would do the honors. When this didn't pan out, either, it was felt that a worthy representative, like esteemed colleague and family friend, Eddie Romero, a National Artist in his own right, would step into the breach.

At first, it seemed like that was an acceptable alternative—then, not so, when the National Artist awards were conferred by president Gloria Arroyo last June 9 at Malacañang Palace, no one accepted FPJ's award.

Then, just when many people thought that all further speculations about a possible rapprochement were moot and academic, at the Cultural Center of the Philippines' own tribute to the new National Artists, Poe's daughter Mary Grace Poe Llanazares and her son showed up to represent him.

Twist

That was an unexpected additional twist in the complex chronology of events that had made the FPJ-Malacañang standoff such a front page-hugger for several weeks.

What did this latest twist at the CCP rites indicate? That, official or not, FPJ's camp had come up



POE. Signal honor.

with a "Solomonic" solution to the controversial impasse: It wasn't right to attend the Malacañang rites, because that could be interpreted as lending legitimacy to the Arroyo presidency, which has been challenged by FPJ's leaders and followers—but it was

OK for Poe's daughter and grandson to grace the rites at the CCP because that venue was politics-free, and thus the family could accept the signal honor on purely artistic grounds.

Or, to put it more graphically by using the colorful style of Filipino movie titles, especially for action films: "Sa iyo ang Malacañang, sa akin ang CCP!"

The appearance of Poe's daughter and grandson at the CCP gave the tumultuous controversy a happier ending than expected, so it should be celebrated.

On the other hand, it must be noted that the excessive political color given to FPJ's National Artist award, its conferment and its non-acceptance, was a far from happy denouement.

Subservient role

Sadly, it affirmed once more the subservient role that the arts are often made to play vis-à-vis the country's overarching obsession with politics. Stringent efforts must be made to make sure that this doesn't happen again.

The excessive focus on political color was also to be rued because it did the other awardees a distinct disservice: So much attention was focused on FPJ and the controversy railing around his award that the other awardees were roundly upstaged.

Again, this should not be allowed to happen again, because all of our new National Artists should be honored equally for their exceptional contributions to the nation's artistic and ethical life.

POWER PLANT CINEMA

Rockwell Center, Makati City Tel. No: 8981440-41

GARFIELD 2 G 1:00, 3:00, 5:00 AN AMERICAN HAUNTING - PG13 7:10, 9:20	SCARY MOVIE 4 R13 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30	THE LAKE HOUSE PG13 1:20, 3:30, 5:40, 7:50, 10:00
PACQUIAO THE MOVIE PG13 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00	THE NUN R13 1:25, 3:30, 5:35, 7:40, 9:45	THE FAST AND THE FURIOUS: TOKYO DRIFT PG13 12:50, 3:10, 5:30, 7:50, 10:10

SHANGHAI CINEPLEX

LAKE HOUSE MTRCB GP 1:20, 3:30, 5:40, 7:50, 10:00	CARS 12:50, 5:25, 10:00 MTRCB GP GARFIELD 2 3:30, 8:05 MTRCB GP
SCARY MOVIE 4 MTRCB R-13 1:20, 3:30, 5:40, 7:50, 10:00	THE FAST AND THE FURIOUS: TOKYO DRIFT MTRCB PG-13 12:20, 2:45, 5:10, 7:35, 10:00

PREMIERE THEATRE AMERICAN HAUNTING MTRCB PG-13

Movies and schedules are subject to change without prior notice

Catch the Cineplex Special

You can get your movie tickets now for "Superman Returns" Showing on June 28, 2006

Call 833-7891, loc. 171 or 833-223 for more details

Shangri-La Plaza

AT THE CINEMAS

Reserve your tickets by texting SURESEATS G03 or SURESEATS G4 to 3333 (Globe) or 211 (Smart) or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservations. Movie schedules may change without prior notice. For verification please call 729 7777

G1 GLORIETTA 1	1 THE NUN	2 SCARY MOVIE 4	3 THE LAKE HOUSE	4 PACQUIAO
G4 GLORIETTA 4	1 GARFIELD 2	2 THE LAKE HOUSE	3 THE FAST & THE FURIOUS: TOKYO DRIFT	4 KINSEY
GB1 GREENBELT 1	1 THE LAKE HOUSE	2 SCARY MOVIE 4	3 KINSEY	4 CARS
GB3 GREENBELT 3	1 THE LAKE HOUSE	2 SCARY MOVIE 4	3 KINSEY	4 CARS
ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 SCARY MOVIE 4	2 CARS	3 THE LAKE HOUSE	4 THE NUN
ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 SCARY MOVIE 4	2 PACQUIAO	3 HILLS HAVE EYES	4 THE FAST & THE FURIOUS: TOKYO DRIFT
M2 MARKET! MARKET!	1 SCARY MOVIE 4	2 THE NUN	3 KAPAG TUMBOK ANG PUSO	4 PACQUIAO

At the Activity Center

Customer Service text hotline: 0917 6095900
Customer Service Numbers: Glorietta - 752 7272; from 10am to 8pm
Greenbelt - 752 4853; from 11am to 12mn

GLORIETTA	ALABANG TOWN CENTER
Mitsubishi Motors Car Exhibit June 22 to 26, 2006	JAB Boxing Exhibit June 23 to 25, 2006
AYALA CENTER CEBU	MARKET! MARKET!
Nokia Interactive Program June 24 & 25, 2006	Sony Summer Pleasures 2006 June 19 to July 12, 2006

GB 3 Camera Photo Exhibit by Filipinas Heritage w/ Sony Ericsson
June 23 to July 2, 2006

The perfect spot for concerts, stage plays & corporate events
is now accepting bookings for June to July 2006
For inquiries, pls. call 752-7862 or 757-3862

From Dogma to Devotion: Icons & Symbols in Philippine Religious Art
Opens June 20, 2006
For inquiries, please call 757-7117 to 21 loc 29 or visit www.ayalamuseum.org

WITNESS ONE OF THE MOST DRAMATIC PERIODS OF CHANGE IN HISTORY...
AMERICA'S SEXUAL AWAKENING

Chris O' Donnell Peter Sarsgaard John Lithgow
Liam Neeson Laura Linney

KINSEY

Based on a True Story

Let's talk about sex.

NOW SHOWING EXCLUSIVELY AT GLORIETTA 4 & GREENBELT 3 CINEMAS

MTRCB RATINGS: RESTRICTED 18/APPROVED WITHOUT CUTS

WARNING TO THE PUBLIC: FILM CONTAINS PERVASIVE SEXUAL CONTENT INCLUDING GRAPHIC IMAGES AND DESCRIPTIONS

MAGNAVISION NOKIA GREENBELT glorietta Ayala Malls CINEMAS

BUY YOUR TICKETS NOW!

Go FASTER THAN A SPEEDING BULLET™
and visit our cinema ticket booths at
GLORIETTA 4, GREENBELT 3,
ALABANG TOWN CENTER, MARKET! MARKET!
& AYALA CENTER CEBU

or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservation

OPENS JUNE 28 AT ALL Ayala Malls CINEMAS

MTRCB Rating: General Audience (All Ages Admitted)

SATURDAY NIGHT GROOVES

June 10 The Authority
June 17 The Real Groove
June 24 Side A
July 1 Spirit of '67

Glorietta 4 Park, 6pm

Plus a Special Father's Day Concert
featuring Gary Valenciano
Sunday, June 18, 6pm Glorietta 4 Park



Garfield in print is cute and funny enough, but even in his original form, he's never been known for his wit. Still, compared to this three-dimensional CGI movie image, his two-dimensional version seems like a true comedic character with unplumbed depths.

A3-5

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

**THIS SCHOOL YEAR...
BUILD YOUR PERFECT PC**
prices start at P14,750

r sun

CALL NOW!
(02) 536 2858 • (02) 722 7896
0922 479-6793 • 0922 319-5711

BUSINESS

Editor Raul O. Marcelo • Assistant Editor Corrie S. Narisma

Text us your feedback: inquirer.biz name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Website: www.inq7money.net

E-mail: business@inquirer.com.ph

From Pagudpud to Sorsogon
1114 km
on just one full tank.

XTR

Actual test result on a 1300 cc vehicle, as certified true by Automobile Association of the Philippines and Car Awards Group, Inc.

BPI forms banking subsidiary for OFWs



Local sardines firm eyes Eastern Europe

By Christine A. Gaylican

A NEW PACKAGING TECHNOLOGY adopted by sardine manufacturer Mega Fishing Corp. (MFC), makers of the Mega Sardines brand, has allowed the local company to penetrate the \$35-million market in Eastern Europe, a top company official said.

Mega Sardines packed in pouches—the first in the Philippines—have found a niche market in Eastern Europe, particularly in Russia, according to Mega

Fishing Corp. president and CEO William Tiu Lim.

"Our packaging innovation has opened new markets for us aside from its consistent sales in local retail stores here," Lim told the INQUIRER.

He noted that Mega Sardines in pouches have been received well during the recent trade show in Moscow, adding that the company would start exporting to Eastern Europe in the second semester.

Mega Fishing ships an average 4 to 5 containers a day (equivalent

LOCAL/B2

Offers 24/7 investment counseling, other money services

By Doris C. Dumlaog

THE AYALAS' BANK OF THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS YESTERDAY launched a new banking subsidiary that seeks to carve a niche in the lucrative overseas Filipino workers (OFW) market.

BPI Direct Savings Bank was created with a banking license distinct from BPI Family Bank, already the country's biggest thrift bank, in line with BPI's "Expat Pinoy" (BPInoy) program that addresses the needs of Filipinos working abroad.

Capitalized at P700 million and with P1.5 billion in assets to date, BPI Direct president

Raul Dimayuga said the new unit would seek out a market base of its own that would not compete with BPI and BPI Family Bank's operations since it would focus on the OFW market.

"We hope to grow to be among the biggest in the thrift bank sector in the future," Dimayuga said.

BPI/B2

WHAT'S INSIDE

RP ahead in Asean online gaming B2

US praises RP drive vs piracy B3

Gov't hopeful on return of foreign investors

THE PHILIPPINES IS WORKING to lure back offshore investors currently distracted by rising interest rates in the United States with sustained improvements in macroeconomic fundamentals, Finance Secretary Margarito Teves said yesterday.

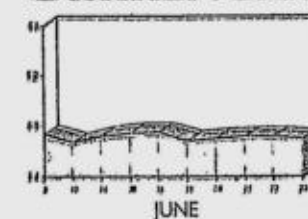
Teves told reporters he was hoping that the apparent shift in

market appetite away from emerging markets would be temporary and that offshore investors would take a second look at the Philippines once the uncertainties have cleared.

"As we know, it is more attractive now for capital to move to the US but I'm hoping that the market

GOV'T/B2

INDICATORS CURRENCIES



PESO-DOLLAR RATE

P 53.26 = \$1

As of 5 p.m., June 23, 2006

STOCK MARKET

Stocks rise on bargain buying

STOCKS ROSE YESTERDAY AS investors shrugged off security concerns and continued to hunt for bargains, traders said.

The benchmark 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index gained 15.78 points, or 0.8 percent, to 2,113.17, following Thursday's 1.9-percent gain.

"We expected the market to top the week on the plus side. We still think some fund managers may have hunted for good bargains, specifically stocks that have declined to oversold levels," said Grace Cerdania, head of operations of local brokerage house 2TradeAsia.

Gainers led decliners 39 to 34, while 45 stocks were unchanged.

AP

WT-i



BECAUSE YOU EARNED IT.

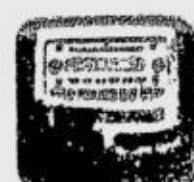
Yes, "nothing but the best. in life and in the car you drive."

Toyota Vios. Proud of a new style that's truly head-turning, the Vios also has features that make every ride more exciting than ever.

Its design that earns it this award of the year. Its powerful yet fuel-efficient VVT-i engine in the Vios. You earned this pleasure.

2006
VIOS
It's everything.

NEW features



DIN CD/TUNER WITH MP3



CONSOLE BOX WITH LID



REAR CUP HOLDERS



SEAT UNDERNEATH



TOYOTA
moving forward

TOYOTA FINANCIAL SERVICES 858-8500
TOYOTA DEALER NETWORK: TOYOTA ALABANG, INC. 800-0801 to 32 / 802-1991 TOYOTA BACOLOD CITY, (034) 444-1811 to 13 TOYOTA BAGUIO CITY, (074) 447-0851 / (074) 300-3273 to 74 / (074) 300-4128 / 3825 / (074) 443-6778 TOYOTA BALINTAWAN, INC. 366-8901 to 05 364-1547 to 50 / 364-4071 to 75
TOYOTA BALINTAWAN-NORTH 927-7215 / 17 / 30 / 39 / 927-7242 / 44 / 48 / 52 / 927-7257 / 62 / 65 / 927-7208 / 69 TOYOTA BATAVIA CITY, INC. (043) 723-7306 / (043) 723-7639 TOYOTA BICUTAN PARAÑAQUE, 777-9500 TOYOTA CABANATUAN CITY, INC. (044) 463-8181 to 87 TOYOTA CADAYAN DE ORO, INC. (08822) 735-770 / 791 / 846 / (088) 858-0994 / (088) 858-7770 / (08822) 731-480 TOYOTA CEBU CITY, INC. (032) 253-1101 TOYOTA CEBU-MAHABUA, (032) 345-8678 TOYOTA COMMONWEALTH 952-1021 to 27 TOYOTA CUBAO, INC., 911-0651 to 63 TOYOTA DAVAO CITY, INC. (075) 517-2026 to 28 / (075) 522-6771 / 6734 / 4773
TOYOTA DASMARIHAS CAVITE, (046) 850-2036 / (046) 850-2929 TOYOTA DAVAO CITY, INC. (082) 231-0998 / (082) 234-2994 / (082) 234-8040 TOYOTA ILOILO CITY, INC. (033) 320-0115 to 19 TOYOTA MAKATI, INC. 897-3333 TOYOTA MANILA BAY CORP. 832-3408 to 10 / 832-3432 to 34 / 832-3384 / 832-3437 TOYOTA MARIKINA
SERVICE STATION, 882-9701 to 03 TOYOTA OTIS, INC. 504-1811 to 20 TOYOTA PASONG TAMO, INC., 893-8084 TOYOTA QUEZON AVENUE, INC., 712-5091 to 06 TOYOTA SAN FERNANDO, (045) 961-1168 TOYOTA SHAW, INC., 532-4132 / 532-8426 / 534-3000 (telefax) TOYOTA SHAW-ORTIGAS, 071-9854 to 64 / 671-0460

RP ahead in Asean online gaming

Philippines outstrips tech-heavy neighbors in terms of revenue growth

By **Daxim L. Lucas**

THE COUNTRY'S ONLINE gaming market grew sharply last year, outpacing its peers in even the more technologically advanced Asean countries, according to a leading telecommunications research firm.

In a statement, IDC said that the online gaming market in the Philippines grew by 72 percent in terms of revenues in 2005 from the previous year's level.

Total subscription revenues reached \$15.56 million, the market research outfit said.

This is, however, only a small fraction of the total market for online gaming in the Asia-Pacific, excluding Japan, which recorded a total of \$1.39 billion last year.

IDC said further growth is in the cards for both the country and the region, as a whole, once service providers get to develop new avenues for the market.

"The increasing popularity of casual games has given the market another new area to spur growth," it said in its report. "While Massively Multiplayer Online Role Playing Games (MMORPGs) have been the mainstream game genre for the last few years, the space has begun to show early signs of maturity and, as such, online gaming providers have been quick to respond and address any potential saturation issues by varying game offerings to include more casual games in their product line."

"In the early days, MMORPG was the sole genre that derived revenue from content generating subscriptions," it added. "Casual online games, on the other hand, were either free or sourced revenue from advertising and sponsorships. However we've begun to see some concrete shifts towards alternative revenue streams."

In 2005, the Philippines held a 1.1-percent market share of the region's total subscription revenues, according to IDC. The region's market is expected to grow at a compound annual growth rate of 21 percent from 2006 to 2010, reaching \$3.6 billion by 2010.

Also, the region's market is expected to breach the \$2-billion mark by 2007, with the entry of several new countries into the region's online gaming scene, specifically India, Indonesia and Vietnam.

BIR checks out non-operating firms

By **Michelle V. Remo**

THE BUREAU OF INTERNAL Revenue is set to conduct a nationwide investigation of corporate taxpayers claiming to have stopped business operations.

Nestor Valeroso, head of the BIR's Quezon City office, said that in one district in Quezon City alone, there were over a thousand firms that had declared to have stopped operations this year.

He said the huge number of firms that made such a claim was doubtful.

Valeroso, who has initiated the conduct of investigations in Quezon City, said Revenue Commissioner Jose Mario Buñag had agreed to widen the scope of the investigation, carrying it out nationwide, as a means to improve the revenue agency's tax collection.

Valeroso noted that false claims of "no operations" results in a double whammy for the government. Not only do false claims allow firms to escape payment of taxes, it also poses the danger of their clients' asking for input VAT credits from the government.

He said the BIR would enhance its database to closely monitor whether the receipts

used by taxpayers to claim input VAT credits are valid.

Valeroso said that cleaning up the BIR's database is necessary so that the revenue agency will be alerted every time a receipt presented by a taxpayer for credit claims is issued by a company that has already declared "no operations."

"This is one of the programs the BIR will do to increase tax collection and work on meeting the full-year target," Valeroso told the INQUIRER.

The BIR is tasked to collect P675.4 billion this year, 25 percent higher than that of last year's actual collection of P542 billion.

The BIR is pressured to come up with measures to raise more taxes to meet its full-year target despite the shortfall posted in the first five months of the year.

BIR data showed that in the January-to-May period, tax collection stood at P268 billion, lower than the P272.2-billion target.

Meanwhile, the BIR has also extended the deadline for this year's No-Audit Program (NAP) until the end of the month, saying the measure has drawn interest from more taxpayers and is seen to help shore up the

BIR's tax collection.

NAP is a program that encourages taxpayers, especially delinquent ones, to voluntarily remit and increase their income tax payments in exchange for being allowed to escape tax audit by the BIR.

NAP is an annual program that will cover taxable periods 2004 to 2008. To escape tax audit under the NAP, the BIR said, a major requirement is for a taxpayer to increase its income tax payment by 20 percent year-on-year.

For 2005 income tax liabilities, application for NAP was supposedly set only until May 15, 2006.

But the BIR, through Revenue Regulation No. 7-2006, has extended the deadline until June 30.

The BIR said the extension was made following a substantial number of requests from taxpayers, who want to avail of the program but have missed the deadline.

The NAP is consistent with the BIR's strategy of compromising with delinquent taxpayers for the government to immediately raise much-needed revenues and meet the P675.4 billion tax collection target for this year.

After Keppel, GE now eyeing Bankard

By **Doris C. Dumlaog**

AFTER EARLIER BUYING OUT Keppel Monte Bank, American global conglomerate General Electric plans to further expand its interests in the Philippines by buying out publicly listed credit card issuer Bankard Inc. from the Yuchengcos.

GE Consumer Finance, which recently launched its Philippine banking platform GE Money Bank, proposed to acquire all of the assets and certain liabilities of Bankard's credit card issuing and merchant acquiring businesses.

Bankard yesterday disclosed to the Philippine Stock Exchange that its board of directors had ac-

cepted GE's proposal. But for the deal to push through, the imprimatur of Bankard stockholders will still be needed.

The credit issuer did not disclose the price considered for the transaction.

On July 28, the proposal shall be presented to stockholders during a meeting.

GE is bullish on banking opportunities in the Philippines—the first Asian country where it acquired a banking platform.

GE Consumer Finance bought out the 30-branch Keppel Monte Bank from Singapore's Keppel group for about P1.45 billion in December last year.

Earlier, the Rizal Commercial

Banking Corp. of the Yuchengcos family wanted to nullify its acquisition of Bankard from Equitable PCI Bank on grounds that it had overpaid the bank in 1999.

In a petition to the Paris-based International Chamber of Commerce, RCBC Capital sued for about P810 million in damages plus interest.

RCBC Capital claimed it had overpaid EPCIB by about P600 million when it shelled out a total of P1.78 billion for 67 percent of Bankard.

EPCI Bank was sued for alleged breach of its warranties, including the fair and accurate presentation of its financial condition in 1999.

PSALM to hedge part of \$7-B debt

By **Abigail L. Ho**

TO PROTECT ITSELF FROM THE effects of foreign exchange fluctuations, the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. (PSALM) intends to do a currency hedge of between \$300 million and \$500 million of its outstanding obligations this year.

In an interview with reporters yesterday, PSALM president Nieves Osorio said that the government agency is now in talks with three to four foreign banks for the transaction.

"We're looking at the different currencies, so we can swap with another currency that will likely give us the least cost," Osorio said. "We've shortlisted three to four banks, all of which are not asking for any national government guarantee."

Right now, she said, PSALM is

looking at just a currency hedge. It is not considering other hedging structures, such as those that have to do with interest rates and the tenor of loans.

"We won't be touching the terms, just the currencies," Osorio said.

As of end-2005, PSALM's outstanding debts were placed at \$7.01 billion or P372 billion. At end-2004, these debts were pegged at \$6.66 billion, a net increment of around \$400 million.

Of the total debts, Osorio said 55 percent were in US dollars, 37 percent in yen, 5 percent in pesos, and the rest in other currencies.

Also, PSALM will again be tapping the debt market to raise \$700 million to fund the National Power Corp.'s maturing obligations this year.

Osorio said PSALM had actually wanted to raise a higher

amount "because we don't know what will happen to the market next year, and we don't know if we can borrow again (at that time)."

"The issue is more the market than our cash flows as, based on a recent discussion with the (Department of Finance), they think we only need that much."

The DOF is still reviewing the amount that PSALM has to raise for Napocor this year, she said.

Osorio added that what PSALM and the DOF have agreed on is that PSALM will be borrowing on its own and will not piggyback on the national government.

Napocor, through PSALM, last year borrowed close to \$800 million to finance its maturing obligations, as well as its capital expenditures and general funding requirements.

From page B1

BPI forms banking subsidiary

While other banks tap the overseas Filipino market only for the remittances or cash transfer business, Dimayuga said BPI Direct would immediately provide as "pabaon" or send-off package to Filipino expats an international automated teller machine card, a BPI Mastercard credit card and a 24/7 counseling service to assist them in managing their finances.

To date, BPI estimates that it has cornered about a quarter of the OFW remittance market, making it among the top three players.

"BPI has realized that there are eight million Filipinos out there and while other banks are focused on competing on remittances, we want to service their total requirements," Dimayuga said.

For instance, he said the new savings bank had tied up with affiliate Avida, a unit of Ayala Land Inc., to provide special housing financing for this market. Given the huge potential of its targeted niche, BPI Direct expects to grow its deposit and loan portfolio by 50 percent a year.

He said BPI Direct would like to see more households, which are benefiting from overseas remittances, save more money in banks instead of spending everything on consumption.

Based on a Bangkok Sentral ng Pilipinas survey on Metro Manila-based households, only about 11 percent of households supported by OFWs attempt to invest in stocks or any private business but a larger 39 percent keep savings in banks and other depository institutions.

From page B1

Gov't hopeful on return

will normalize compared to what we've seen in previous months," said Teves, who graced the launching of the Bank of the Philippine Islands' new bank for overseas Filipino workers, BPI Direct Savings.

"If we continue to improve on our market fundamentals, the Philippines would be among the serious countries to consider if they decide to move back their capital

to emerging markets," he said. As such, Teves said peso-denominated government securities would again be able to attract more foreign investors.

"I'm hoping that things will change in the next few weeks," he said.

At present, fund managers are selling assets in emerging markets on expectations of further increas-

es in US interest rates, contrary to earlier hopes that the two-year monetary tightening in the world's biggest economy was at its tailend.

With a few days to go before the end of the first semester, Teves said the Department of Finance was working double-time to attain its revenue targets and sustain the over-performance in its cash budget position. **Doris C. Dumlaog**

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE					
(As of June 23, 2006)					
STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
		FINANCIAL			
		BANKS			
Banko de Oro Union Bank	33	33	32	32.5	279,200
Bank of the Phil. Islands	45	47	45	46	1,423,600
China Banking Corp.	860	860	860	860	1,060
Citystate Savings Bank	20.5	20.5	20.5	20.5	300
Export and Ind. Bank A	0.38	0.39	0.38	0.38	1,090,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	72.5	72.5	72	72.5	92,300
International Exch. Bank	41.5	41.5	41.5	41.5	50,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	31	32	31	31	755,200
Philippine National Bank	32	32	32	32	52,500
Phil. Savings Bank	39	39	39	39	5,000
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	17	17	17	17	9,000
Security Bank Corp.	42.5	43	42	42	156,700
Union Bank of the Phil.	42	42.5	42	42.5	15,000
OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
Bankard Inc.	0.73	0.85	0.73	0.75	790,000
First Metro Invest. Corp.	31	31	31	31	10,000
Investment Corp.	1.26	1.28	1.24	1.24	1,682,000
INDUSTRIAL					
ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
First Gen Corp.	42	42.5	42	42.5	53,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	43.5	44	43.5	44	39,900
Manila Electric Co. A	14	14	14	14	10,100
Manila Electric Co. B	21	21.25	20.75	21	118,200
Manila Water Co. Inc.	7.1	7.3	7.1	7.2	1,488,000
Petrone Corp.	3.7	3.75	3.65	3.7	2,637,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.94	0.94	0.94	0.94	10,000
FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3	3	3	3	17,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	23.25	23.25	22.75	22.75	70,600
Jollibee Foods Corp.	31	31.5	31	31	462,500
Pancake House Inc.	4.7	4.8	4.7	4.8	168,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	2.65	2.75	2.65	2.65	273,000
San Miguel Corp. A	64	65	64	65	52,200
San Miguel Corp. B	73	73.5	72.5	73.5	63,300
Phil Toll Free Cur & Redry	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	6,000
Universal Robina Corp.	18.25	18.25	18	18.25	1,049,500
Vitacorn Corp.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	200,000
CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
Southeast Asian Cement	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.27	1,350,000
Engineering Equip. Inc.	1.3	1.38	1.3	1.34	6,800,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	4.45	4.45	4.45	4.45	79,000
CHEMICALS					
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	50,000
DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
Picop Resources Inc.	0.065	0.065	0.06	0.06	5,500,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	340	350	337.5	347.5	145,410
Alcons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.56	0.58	0.56	0.58	5,600,000
Abotit Equity Ventures	5.2	5.3	5.2	5.3	1,214,000
Ajo Net Holdings Inc.	0.024	0.024	0.023	0.023	6,400,000
A. Soriano Corp.	1.84	1.86	1.84	1.84	618,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	27,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.94	1.06	0.94	1.06	7,590,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	9.8	9.8	9.8	9.8	1,000
Bengros Holdings Corp.	1	1.02	1	1	5,645,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	3.65	3.65	3.6	3.6	193,000
Fininvest Dev. Corp.	2.7	2.85	2.7	2.85	77,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	5.4	5.5	5.4	5.5	192,000
Palawan	0.009	0.009	0.009	0.009	2,000,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	500,000
Sinophill Corp.	0.125	0.125	0.12	0.12	4,800,000
SM Investments Corp.	214	215	213	215	23,280
South China Resources Inc.	0.72	0.75	0.72	0.75	410,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	100,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	11	11.25	10.75	11.25	6,714,900
Belle Corp.	1.04	1.06	1.04	1.04	1,354,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	30,000
Calbay Holdings Inc.	1.94	1.94	1.88	1.94	1,870,000
C & P Homes Inc.	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	120,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	2,100,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.57	0.57	0.57	0.57	4,770,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.03	0.031	0.03	0.031	1,200,000
Fininvest Land Inc.	1.28	1.28	1.28	1.28	6,433,000
Gotesco Land Inc.	0.0525	0.0525	0.05	0.05	800,000
Highlands Prime Inc.	2.95	3	2.95	3	15,000
Interport Res.	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	7,000,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.38	1.4	1.38	1.4	5,458,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.21	0.215	0.21	0.215	3,520,000
MFC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.205	0.21	0.205	0.21	250,000
Primex Corp.	3.65	3.65	3.65	3.65	70,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	10	10	9.9	9.9	11,000
Phil Realty And Holdings	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	400,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.3	7.4	7.3	7.4	1,959,000
MEDIA					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	18,700
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	290,000
TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	1.18	1.22	1.18	1.22	3,173,000
Global Telecom Inc.	910	910	900	910	68,320
Philigno Tel. Corp.	3.3	3.45	3.3	3.4	1,264,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1800	1800	1790	1800	24,550
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	200,000
GenCorp	2.24	2.26	2.2	2.2	83,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.0525	0.0525	0.0525	0.0525	1,000,000
Musik Semiconductors Corp.	1.16	1.16	1.16	1.16	100,000
Transpacific Broadband	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	100,000
Philweb Corp.	0.031	0.031	0.03	0.03	199,100,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	13.25	13.25	13	13.25	408,400
HOTEL & LEISURE					
Acetate Phils Hotel Corp.	4.65	4.65	4.65	4.65	190,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.58	0.6	0.58	0.59	9,640,000
EDUCATION					
Far Eastern University	1000	1000	1000	1000	4
iPeople Inc.	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	5,000
DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
MacroAsia Corp.	2.02	2.06	1.98	1.98	88,000
Paxys Inc.	9.9	9.9	9.9	9.9	45,000
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	22,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	7	7.9	6.8	7.8	6,220,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.29	0.29	0.28	0.29	1,160,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. B	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	1,160,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.021	0.022	0.021	0.022	123,200,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.023	0.024	0.023	0.024	65,900,000
Omico Corp.	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	142,000,000
Philrex Mining Corp. A	3.95	3.95	3.85	3.9	7,633,000
Philrex Mining Corp. B	3	3	3	3	3,000,000
Samuraz Mining Corp.	30	30	29	29.5	213,200
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.35	0.39	0.35	0.39	1,110,000
Valcan Ind't	0.55	0.57	0.54	0.57	760,000
OIL					
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	900,000
Orient Pet. & Min. A	0.009	0.009	0.009	0.009	33,000,000
Ororient Pet. & Min. B	0.0095	0.0095	0.0095	0.0095	39,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	1.14	1.26	1.14	1.26	6,089,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	1.14	1.28	1.14	1.26	6,019,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	18.25	19	18.25	18.5	813,400
PREFERRED					
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Q	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	11
PLDT (10% Pref) Series R	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	11
PLDT (10% Pref) Series S	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1.8
PLDT (10% Pref) Series U	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	3
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	3
WARRANTS, PHIL. DEPOSIT RECEIPTS, ETC.					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	14	14.25	14	14.25	24,400



MITSUBISHI
MOTORS



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM
 East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
 Tel. Nos. (632) 920-8401 • (632) 920-6448
 E-mail: member_relations@sss.gov.ph • Website: http://www.sss.gov.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

IAEB No. 2006-020 - Goods

ACQUISITION OF FURNITURE & EQUIPMENT FOR BRANCH
 TELLER PROJECT (4th PHASE)

Project Description	Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) & Source of Fund	Date/Time Pre-Bid Conference	Deadline Opening of 3 Envelopes/Bids	Price of Bids Documents (non-refundable)
Supply, delivery & installation of 113 Teller's Booth and Accessories to various SSS Branches	P12,214,410.00 CAPEX: Furniture & Equipment	July 07, 2006 2:30 p.m.	July 21, 2006 2:00 p.m.	P10,000.00
Supply, delivery & installation (actual location) of fifty (50) units Fireproof Cash Vault to various SSS Branches	P2,622,200.00 CAPEX: Furniture & Equipment	July 07, 2006 3:00 p.m.	July 21, 2006 2:30 p.m.	P2,500.00
Supply, delivery & installation (actual location) of fifty (50) units Money/Bill Counter to various SSS Branches	P1,750,000.00 CAPEX: Furniture & Equipment	July 07, 2006 3:30 p.m.	July 21, 2006 3:00 p.m.	P1,500.00

- Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at bid opening.
- The SSS now invites Bids from eligible bidders for the proposed acquisition of the above equipment. Supply, delivery and installation of the GOODS are required within forty-five (45) calendar days after contract signing/receipt of Purchase Order (PO). The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, Instruction to Bidders (ITB).
- Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
- Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the **SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM** and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from Monday to Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee. The method of payment will be on a cash basis payable at the SSS Cashiering Department, SSS Main Bldg., Ground floor, upon accomplishment of SSS Form R-6. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
- The Pre-Bid Conference shall be held at the Green Room, 12th Floor, SSS Main Bldg., East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City.
- Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered at the Green Room, 12th Floor, SSS Main Building on the deadline specified above. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form and amount indicated in the Bid Tender Documents. Late Bids shall not be accepted.
- Bid opening shall be held at the Green Room, 12th Floor, SSS Main Bldg., East Avenue Diliman, Quezon City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the given address.
- The **SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM** reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Bid and Awards Committee
 The Secretariat
 6th Floor, SSS Main Building
 East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
 Tel. Nos. 922-2991; 924-7380; 920-6401 local 5491
 Email - bac@sss.gov.ph
 Facsimile number - (02) 924-7380

THE CHAIRMAN
 BIDS & AWARDS COMMITTEE

(PDI - June 24, 2006)



National Transmission Corporation

SECTION I. INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Republic of the Philippines
 National Transmission Corporation

SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF
JET A-1 AVIATION FUEL (for One Year)
 Ref. No. PB060329-PP0047

- The **NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION**, Head Office Region (TRANSCO-HO) through the 2006 Corporate Budget approved by the TransCo Board, intends to apply the sum of P16,360,313.90 being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for PR No.: ATO-06-000016256. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.
- The **TRANSCO-HO** now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the supply and delivery of Jet A-1 fuel. Delivery of the GOODS is required as follows: **Into-plane Deliveries: within 24 hours from receipt of notice from TransCo; Drum Deliveries: within five (5) calendar days from receipt of notice from TransCo.** The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.
- Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
- A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from June 24, 2006 to July 20, 2006 at the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of **Php 2,000.00**. The method of payment will be **Cash**. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
- The **TRANSCO-HO** will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on July 5, 2006/9:00 a.m. at the address below. Requests for clarifications on the bid documents should be submitted before the Pre-Bid Conference.
- Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before July 21, 2006/10:00 a.m. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in any of the following forms and amount or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency. Late Bids shall not be accepted:

FORM OF SECURITY	AMOUNT
1. Cash, certified check, cashier's check, manager's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit (1% of ABC)	PhP 163,603.14
2. Bank guarantee (1.5% of ABC)	PhP 245,404.71
3. Surety Bond (2.5% of ABC)	PhP 409,007.85
4. Foreign government guarantee	PhP 16,360,313.90

- Bid opening shall be on July 21, 2006/10:00 a.m. at the **Admin Conference Room same address below**. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below.
- The **National Transmission Corporation** reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

National Transmission Corporation, Head Office Region
 Mr. Armando N. Ochoa, BAC Chairman
 MMD Office, Ground Floor, TransCo Main Bldg.
 Power Center, Quezon Avenue
 corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City
 Tel. No.: (632) 981-2207 / Fax No. (632) 922-8432
 Website: www.transco.ph

(Sgd.) ARMANDO N. OCHOA
 Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - June 24, 2006)



Republic of the Philippines
National Transmission Corporation
 South Luzon Operations and Maintenance

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

Construction of Lineman's/Operator's Villa at Batangas Substation
 [TRANS-06-CLVBS-EG-04-PB2]

The **NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION-SLOM**, through the Internal Cash Generation (ICG) intends to apply the sum of Three Million Four Hundred Eighty Seven Thousand Four Hundred Forty Five & 82/100 (P3,487,445.82) being the Approved Budget for Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for Construction of Lineman's/Operator's Villa at Batangas Substation. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

The **NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION-SLOM** now invites potential Bidders to submit Letter of Intent (LOI) and apply for eligibility for the construction of lineman's/operator's villa at batangas substation. Bidders should possess a valid PCAB license with License Particular of at least: "Category D & C, General Building" and Registration Particular of at least: "Small B-Building & Industrial Plant, must have at least completed a single contract similar to the contract to be bid involving experience in construction of all types of building, i.e. housing, schools, hospitals, market, multi-story buildings, airport terminals & other related structures. The value of which should be at least 50% of the ABC, and meet the other minimum eligibility requirements stated in the eligibility documents. Applications for eligibility will be evaluated on a "pass/fail" basis. The last day for submission of eligibility documents shall be on the same date of the opening of Eligibility documents: **July 07, 2006, 1:30 P.M.** at the address mentioned in the next succeeding paragraphs. Only those Bidders passing the eligibility check will be entitled to purchase the Bidding Document. Completion of the works is required by **125 calendar days**.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act No. 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, and is restricted, unless otherwise stated, to organizations with at least seventy-five percent (75%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines. In accordance with IRR Part A of R.A. 9184, only bids from Bidders who passed the eligibility check will be opened. The Bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine its responsiveness to the technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during post-qualification.

Interested Bidders shall secure the Eligibility documents from the BAC Secretariat at the address stated below, starting **June 16-July 04, 2006 from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **Php1,000.00**. They shall submit their accomplished Eligibility documents on or before **July 07, 2006, 1:30 P.M.** at the stated address. Eligibility Screening shall be held on **July 07, 2006, 1:30 P.M.** at the OAVP Conference Room B of the stated address.

Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from **NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION-SLOM Regional Contracts Management Office (RCMO)** and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from **8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. on July 28-31, 2006**.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by Bidders that passed the eligibility check upon the presentation of the Notice of Eligibility to the BAC Secretariat at the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee **Php2,000.00**. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the bidder or his authorized representative starting **July 28-31, 2006, 8:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.**

The **NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION-SLOM** will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all Eligible Bidders on **Aug. 03, 2006, 9:30 A.M.** at the OAVP Conference Room Transco, SLOM San Vicente, Bataan, Laguna.

Deadline for submission of bids is on **August 17, 2006, 9:30 A.M.** at the address below. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in any of the prescribed form indicated under Section 27.2 of R.A. 9184. Bid opening shall be on the same date **August 17, 2006, 9:30 A.M.** at the **OAVP Conference Room B of Transco SLOM**. Late Bids shall not be accepted. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders representatives who choose to attend.

The **NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION-SLOM** reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

National Transmission Corporation - South Luzon Operations & Maintenance
 Regional Contracts Management Office (RCMO)
 San Vicente Bataan, Laguna 4024
 Mr. Ruben G. Castuera - BAC Chairman
 (02) 981-4576 to 78 local 4094; 4086; 4053
 rgcastuera@transco.ph
 (02) 981-4576 to 78 local 4007
 www.transco.ph

(SGD.) RUBEN G. CASTUERA
 BAC Chairman

(PDI - June 16 & 24, 2006)

NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION OF P-FOUR, INC.

Notice is hereby given that **P-FOUR, INC.** will file with the Securities and Exchange Commission a Certificate of Amendment of Articles of Incorporation shortening its corporate life to April 30, 2005.

Any person who may have a claim against said corporation may present the same to the undersigned at c/o ALPAP 1 Bldg., 5th Floor, 140 L.P. Leviste Street Salcedo Village, 1227 Makati City.

This announcement serves as notice to all parties concerned of the dissolution of said Company.

(Sgd.) ALELI MILITSALA-BONIOL
 Corporate Secretary
 P-FOUR, INC.

(PDI - June 17 & 24, 2006)



PORO POINT MANAGEMENT CORPORATION
 A Subsidiary of Bases Conversion Development Authority

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

Consultancy Services for the Detailed Engineering Design of the San Fernando Airport

The proposed development covers an approximate land area of 40 hectares. The facilities to be designed by the consultant shall include the aircraft movement area (runway, taxiway and apron), Navigational aids, airfield lighting system, perimeter fence, control tower, crash and fire rescue facilities, passenger terminal building, administrative building, vehicular parking area, and drainage, water, power and communication systems. The preparation of engineering and architectural designs and the construction of these facilities shall be in accordance with the Standard and Recommended Practices of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and other applicable and present engineering standard, codes and practices available. The design covers structural, architectural, electrical, sanitary, mechanical, security and other related disciplines.

The Poro Point Management Corporation (PPMC), intends to apply the sum of Nine Million Two Hundred Thirty Thousand Eight Hundred Eighty Seven and 50/100 Pesos (P9,230,887.50) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for Consultancy Services for the Detailed Engineering Design of the San Fernando Airport. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at opening of the financial proposals.

The PPMC, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), now invites Letters of Intent (LOI) from potential Bidders to apply for eligibility and short listing for Consultancy Services for the Detailed Engineering Design of the San Fernando Airport. Applications for eligibility will be evaluated on a Pass/Fail basis. The deadline for submission of eligibility documents shall be on or before July 14, 2006. Only those Consultants that are short-listed will be entitled to purchase the Bidding Documents. Completion of the project is required within 4 months from the receipt of Notice to Proceed.

The BAC shall draw up the short list of Consultants from those who have been determined as eligible, and who have submitted their expressions of interest, both in accordance with the provisions of the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) Part A of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184). The short list shall consist of five (5) Consultants. Below are the criteria and rating system for short listing of Consultants:

- Firm Experience and Track Record 50 points
- Technical Staff Experience 50 points

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as specified in the IRR Part A of R.A. 9184, otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, and is restricted, unless otherwise stated, to organizations with at least a sixty percent (60%) interest belonging to Citizens of the Philippines. In accordance with IRR Part A of R.A. 9184, only Proposals from short listed Consultants will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in the Bidding Document, Instructions to Consultants. In accordance with the IRR Part A of R.A. 9184, a contract will only be awarded to the Highest Rated and Responsive Bidder who was determined as such after post-qualification.

The PROCURING ENTITY shall evaluate the proposals from the shortlisted firms using the Quality-Cost Based Evaluation (QCBE) procedure. The criteria and rating system for the evaluation of proposals are:

- Technical Proposal 60%
- Financial Proposal 40%

The schedule of BAC activities is as follows:

BAC ACTIVITIES	SCHEDULE
1. Receipt from prospective bidders of Letter of Intent (LOI) including Application for Eligibility	July 7 & 10, 2006
2. Issuance of Eligibility Forms	July 7 & 10, 2006
3. Receipt of Eligibility Requirements	July 14, 2006
4. Notice of Result of Eligibility Check	July 21, 2006
5. Issuance of Bid Documents	July 24, 2006
6. Pre-Bid Conference	July 27, 2006
7. Receipt and Opening of Bids	August 8, 2006

The BAC shall issue to prospective bidders Eligibility Forms at PPMC Administration Building, PPSEF Poro, City of San Fernando, La Union, and upon the submission of LOI, and upon their payment of non-refundable amount of three thousand pesos (P3,000.00) to the PPMC Cashier. Prospective bidders shall submit the eligibility requirements to the BAC at the said address. They may also obtain the results of the Eligibility Check by the BAC at the same address.

The BAC will issue bidding documents only to the bidders declared by the BAC to be eligible for the bidding upon payment of a non-refundable amount of five thousand pesos (P5,000.00) to the PPMC Cashier.

The Poro Point Management Corporation reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

(Sgd.) ATTY. ANTHONY C. MANGUIAT
 Vice President, PPMC and Chairman, BAC

(PDI - June 24 & July 1, 2006)



TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid
 Republic of the Philippines
 EDET Project

Tender No. LCB - EDET - 01-06

Training Equipment, Tools and Accessories in Lots:

Lot 6b - Food Processing	Php 12,240,000.00 (A, B, C)
Lot 11 - Tourism	Php 10,060,000.00 (A, B, C)

The Government of the Philippines (GOP) has received a credit from KfW towards the cost of the Expansion of Dual Education and Training (EDET) being carried out by the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) it intends to apply this credit for payments under the contract for Eleven (11) lots for the Supply of Training Equipment, Tools, Publications, Computer, Audio-Visual Equipment, Furniture and Accessories.

TESDA now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for Training Equipment, Tools and Accessories, Delivery of the Goods to the TESDA Institutional sites shall be one hundred twenty (120) calendar days from the date of contract signing. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.

Bidding will be conducted through limited bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act No. 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, and is restricted to organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, as specified in Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the lowest calculated bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine his responsiveness to the technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY DIVISION, 3rd Floor, TESDA Administration Building, TESDA Complex, East Service Road, South Luzon Expressway, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of One Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (P1,500.00). The method of payment will be in the form of cash. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

TESDA will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on July 04, 2006 at 2:00 p.m., Agunio Room, Learning Center, TESDA Administration Building.

Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before August 06, 2006. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form of:

- Cash, certified check, cashier's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit equivalent to 1% of ABC; or
- Bank Guarantee equivalent to 1½% of ABC; or
- Surety Bond equivalent to 2½% of ABC

Late Bids shall not be accepted.

Bid opening shall be held on August 15, 2006, 9:30 a.m. at the Agunio Room, Learning Center, TESDA Administration Building. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below.

TESDA reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

MR. SANTIAGO M. YABUT
 (Deputy Director General, FO)
 Chairman, BAC
 TESDA Complex, TESDA Administration Building
 East Service Road, South Luzon Expressway
 Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City
 Tel. No.: 817-40-76 to 80 and 893-8296
 Fax No.: 817-90-40
 E-mail: pdt_oca@tesda.gov.ph
 Website: www.tesda.gov.ph

(Sgd.) SECRETARY AUGUSTO BOBOY SYJUCO
 Director General

(PDI - June 17 & 24, 2006)

Available thru Pag-IBIG & Installment!

Tagaytay GreenVille
 Tagaytay Amado Road
 Tagaytay City

For as Low as **P10,045 a month**
 Call us at 893-1207 • 872-9982 • 871-8318 • 805-2310

DESIGNED BY **Casimiro Development CORPORATION**
 www.casimirodev.com

MANAGED BY **Forte Realty CORPORATION**
 www.forterealty.com

FLURIES No. 1219-04-0428

FREE N.A. MAPS REVIEW FOR TOP 10% GRADUATES

ST. MARY'S COLLEGE OF SAN JUAN

www.stmarycollege.net
 BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN **NURSING**

Accepting Applications to All Year Levels!
 School Year 2006-07
 (Classes begin June 26, 2006)
Transfer Students
 SHALL RECEIVE FULL CREDIT FOR COURSES SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED AT OTHER SCHOOLS SUBJECT TO OUR EVALUATION AND REVIEW

Noted: **ST. MARY'S COLLEGE OF SAN JUAN**
 721-9938 to 39

White Plains Lots

15% Downpayment
 Up to 12 Years to pay
CALL NOW!
 067-8913 to 177 / 0917-8479276

WE BUY at HIGH PRICE ROLEX
 HIS & HERS Watch Center
 GoldCrest Bldg.
 Glorietta-2
 5646593 5697041
 0917-8473744

NOTICE OF LOSS

This is to inform the public that 1 pc. of C.T.C. with serial no. 24236753 (original, duplicate & triplicate) issued to Brgy. Ibayo, Marilao, Bulacan was lost. Any transaction with said C.T.C. if used shall be considered forfeited, not valid and will no longer be honored. If found, kindly inform the concerned barangay w/ tel. no. 044-711-4417.

(PDI - June 24, 2006)

POEA 24-HR HOTLINES 722-1144 • 722-1155

With faith in the Resurrection
we announce the death of our mother

HERMELINDA VILLANUEVA RAMOS DIZON

Born in Bacolod City on 02 March 1913 and died in Bacolod City on 21 June 2006
of cardiac arrest.

She is survived by her three children, Rodolfo, Br. Rolando FSC and Josefa.

Her remains lie in state at the Chapel of Hope
Rolling Hills Memorial Park, Bacolod City.

The Mass of the Resurrection will be celebrated on Monday, 26 June 2006, 8:30AM
at the Carmelite Monastery, Mandalagan, Bacolod City.

Interment follows.

In lieu of flowers, the family would appreciate donations for scholarships in her memory.
Please make checks payable to JRR DIZON FOUNDATION.

In Loving Memory
on her 1ST DEATH ANNIVERSARY
June 24, 2005

NICANORA DOBLE-DE LUNA

Botolan, Zambales

Her children Noel & Rose, Ruben & Bel, Paul & Kitty,
Francis & Marlin, and Ma. Teresa; grandchildren Lee, Kim,
Lin; Carlo; Abigail, Monica; Patrick Ian; her friends and
relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose
of her soul.

Mass will be offered today at San Isidro Labrador Church,
Nangka, Marikina City at 7:00 a.m.

Seven Years Ago Today
Our Beloved Mama

MARIA KOO TAN

Joined the Lord in Eternal Rest

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass will be celebrated in her memory
and that of our Papa, Salvador Tan Siong Chang, today at the
following churches:

Catarman Cathedral	5:30 AM
Mary The Queen (Greenhills)	6:00 PM
Sanctuario de San Jose (Greenhills)	6:15 PM
Chapel of the Eucharistic Lord (Meggall) ..	12:15 PM
Sanctuario del Santo Cristo (Blumentritt)	7:30 AM
St. Francis Church (Mandaluyong)	7:00 AM
St. John The Baptist	6:00 PM

Thank you once again for your prayers and well wishes.

Edward, Robert & Jenny, Ronnie (†) & Marge, Renan & Iris
Alex & Milly, Stanley & Jen, Sandy and Steve
Eddie & Noah, Doy, Square & Kay & Candice
Aida & Albert (Simtoco), Arvin & Malou, Archie & Barbie, & Aris
Tommy & Marge, Bernice, Adrian & Melissa
Eday & Boy (Gustilo) & Gail
Nonoy & Grace, Trisha, Felicity, Valerie, Noynoy & Borgy
and great grandchildren.

Message of Thanks

The family of
DR. ALEX B. TIRONA
of Cavite City

is deeply touched and grateful
for the tremendous thoughtfulness, love
and sympathy given by his relatives,
colleagues, patients and friends.
May God bless them all!

"Come to Me, all you who are weary,
and burdened, and I will give you rest."

Matthew 11:28

On the Eve of the Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus,

A. JUDITH LUCIANO LEDESMA

was peacefully called from her valiant pilgrimage of 58 years.

Her mother, **Justice Leonor Ines-Luciano;**

Her children, **Elaine, Nikki, Carla, Tara, and Maryanne;**

Her grandchildren, **Noelle and Nikka;**

Her siblings, **Ging and Eddie, Chichos and Nanett,**

Sito and Marilyn, and Clem and EQ;

Her other relatives and friends, and the numerous people whose lives she
had touched and served with Mother Teresa's Christ-like love, especially the
mountain people of Siniloan and the prisoners of San Juan Town Jail,

request the pious readers

to pray for her speedy welcome into

God's Kingdom of Eternal Joy.

Her remains lie in state at the parish of the Shrine of Our Lady of Mount Carmel,
Broadway St., Q.C. Interment will be at the crypt of said Church on Sunday,
June 25, 2006 after the 2:00 p.m. funeral Mass.

MANUEL VICENTE KOHANAP BRIONES

a loving and dedicated father passed away
on Saturday, June 10, 2006.

Manuel, known to most as Noli was born on March 24, 1944 in the Philippines. He earned his Engineering
Degree from Mapua Institute of Technology and received his MBA from Asia Institute of Management
(AIM). After much traveling, he eventually settled his family in the United States. Moving to New York,
New Jersey and then to Arizona permanently.

At the time of his demise, he was a member of The Society for Mining, Metallurgy and Exploration,
USA; member of The New Jersey Society of Professional Engineers; and a Registered Professional
Mining Engineer, USA.

Manuel will be sadly missed but lovingly remembered. His generosity and kind heart were an inspiration
to his family. He lived his life with integrity and bravery.

Mr. Briones is survived by his loving wife **Gloria**; two daughters, **Christine** and **Marion Lee**; a son,
Frank; a son-in-law, **Eugene Lee**; his sisters, **Remelina, Angelita, Longina** and **Wilhelmina**; brothers,
Josevero and **Nicolarico**; in-laws, nephews and nieces; grandnephews and grandnieces.

His remains will lie in state on Monday and Tuesday, the 26th and 27th of June, 2006, respectively, at the
Saint Jerome Chapel/Sta. Susana Church, Alabang, Metro Manila. Funeral Services will be held on
Wednesday, June 28, 2006 at 9:00 am and interment will follow at the Loyola Memorial Park, Sucat,
Paranaque, Metro Manila.

Death Notice

Artemio "Boy" Salcedo Cruz, Jr.
died last June 17, 2006 at the age of 58.
His remains lie at Funeraria Paz Sucat in
Manila Memorial Park.
Interment starts 9am on Sunday, June 25,
2006.

Always caring...

INQUIRER OBITUARIES

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:

1. Copy of Death Certificate
2. Any identification document (I.D.)

"My soul finds rest in God alone; my salvation comes from Him;
He alone is my rock and my salvation; He is my fortress, I will never be shaken."

Psalms 62:1

CHUA KOK HIONG a.k.a. PHILIP UY

Peacefully joined our Lord Jesus Christ
on June 21, 2006 at the age of 52.

His wife **So Han**; children **Ryan** (eldest son), **Michelle, Christian** and **Lyane**; his parents,
brothers, sister and friends give thanks to the Lord for the blessing of his life.

His remains lie in state at La Funeraria Paz, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on June 26, 2006, 9:00 a.m. at the Manila Memorial Park, Dasmariñas, Cavite.

CLASSIFIEDS

More Classified Ads:
AFP-RSBS on A20;
DFA, NFA and
Province of Isabela
on A21

BUY * SELL * PAWN
WATCHES
JEWELRY
DIAMONDS
BEST OFFER
IN TOWN
8342886
8040484

PROFESSIONAL & CREDIBLE
PAWN * BUY * SELL
WATCHES
BEST APPRAISAL
Secondo Gionetta 1
Tel# 894-0282
Agencia de Makati
Tel# 889-7956

BANK ACQUIRED ASSET FOR SALE
Location: Along Road Right of Way,
Brgy. Maharlika East, Tagaytay City
Description: Vacant Agro-Residential Lot
Area: 11,572.00 sqms. (more or less)
* subject to bank's approval and change
without prior notice to the public *
For inquiries, please call:
UNITED COCONUT PLANTERS BANK
Asset Management and
Disposition Division
Hotline No. 8119797

PASADENA VILLAS
380 N. Domingo St., San Juan, Metro Manila
Tel. No. 727-7941; 523-6640; 561-5520

POEA 24-HR HOTLINES 722-1144 • 722-1155



Where to Stop Where to Go

A weekly directory
of the country's best establishments

ASTORIA
Serviced Residential Suites
Astoria Plaza
15 J. Escriva Drive, Ortigas Business District,
Pasig City 1600
Tel. (02) 899-1111 Fax. (02) 899-1415
Email: sales@astoriaplaza.com

City Garden Hotel-Makati
Makati Ave., cor. Kalyaan St., Makati City
Tel. (02) 899-1111 Fax. (02) 899-1415
Email: makaticitygardenhotels.com

City Travel Hotel
15 Kidad Road, Baguio City
Tel. (074) 445-0456 / Fax (074) 445-0457

Diamond Hotel Philippines
Cor. Dr. J. Quinsio St. Roxas Blvd.
Tel. (02) 528-3000 Fax 526-2255

Edsa Shangri-La
Edsa Shangri-La Manila
1 Garden Way, Ortigas Center, Manila
Tel. 633-8888
www.shangri-la.com

Executive Plaza Hotel
1630 A Mabini St., Malate, Manila
Tel. 523-1000 / Fax 525-8979
Email: sales@executiveplazahotel.com
www.executiveplazahotel.com

Golden Pine Hotel and Restaurant
Intersection of Carino St. and Legarda
Road, Baguio City
Tel. (074) 444-9970 to 71/740-8975/
Fax (074) 446-0704
Email: goldenpinehotel@skyline.net

Hotel Veniz
No. 1 Abanao St. Baguio City
Tel. (074) 446-0700 to 03
Fax (074) 446-0704
Email: hotelveniz@skyline.net
www.hotelveniz.com

Las Palmas
Las Palmas Hotel Manila
1616 A. Mabini St., Malate, Manila
Tel. (632) 521-1000/ Fax (632) 523-6917
www.laspalmashotel.com.ph

Mandarin Oriental Manila
Paseo de Roxas cor. Makati Ave. Makati City
Tel. 770-8888
www.mandarinoriental.com

Renaissance Makati City Hotel
Esperanza St. cor. Makati Ave., Makati City
Tel. 811-6888/Fax. 811-6777
www.marriott.com

Palm Plaza Hotel
Pedro Gil corner M. Adriatico Sts., Manila
Tel. (02) 522-1000 Fax 525-8013
www.palmpalazahotel.com

Pearl Farm Beach Resort
Kaputian Island Garden, City of Samal
Manila: (02) 750-1896 / Fax (082) 221-9979

SOMERSET
Somerset Salcedo, Makati
H.V. dela Costa St., cor. L.P. Levista St.,
Salcedo Village, 1227 Makati City
Tel. 888-6668 Fax: 888-6655

SOMERSET
Somerset Millennium, Makati
No. 104 Aguirre St., Legaspi Village, 1229
Makati City
Tel. 888-0505 Fax: 812-7721

SOMERSET
Somerset Olympia, Makati
No. 7912, Makati Ave., 1220 Makati City
Tel. 812-1010 Fax: 818-8254

The Bellevue Manila
North Bridgeway, Northgate
Alabang, Muntinlupa
Tel. (632) 771-8181 / Fax (632) 771-8282
www.thebellevue.com

The Regent Hotel
Elas, Angeles St., Naga City
Tel. (6354) 4722626 / Fax (6354) 4722525

Camp John Hay Manor
Loakan Road, Baguio City
Tel. (074) 446-0231 to 50

City Garden Suites
1158A Mabini St., Ermita, Manila
Tel. 536-1451 Fax. 524-4844
Email: citygardenreservations@citygardenhotels.com

CSB HOTEL
Arelan Ave., cor. Estrada St., Malate, Manila
Tel. (02) 400-3333 Fax 400-7401

Dusit Hotel Nikko
Dusit Hotel Nikko
Ayala Center, 223 Makati City Phil.
Tel. 867-3333 Email: dusitmn@nusit.com
http://manila.dusit.com

Evercrest Golf Club Resort, Inc.
Km. 72 Batulao, Nasugbu, Batangas
Tel. (02) 712-9293 to 98
Fax (02) 712-9299
Manila Sales Office 733-3822/733-9955

GARDEN PLAZA
Garden Plaza Hotel & Suites
1030 Belen St., Paco, Manila
Tel. (632) 422-4835/ Fax (632) 422-4840

Grand Regal Hotel Davao
J. P. Laurel St., Lanang, Davao City
Tel. (382) 235-0888 / (382) 234-3858

INTERCONTINENTAL
Intercontinental Manila
1 Ayala Avenue, Makati City
Tel. 815-9711
www.intercontinental.com

Mactan Island Resort
Mactan Island Resort
Punta Engano Road, Lapu Lapu Cebu
Tel. (632) 231-0288/Fax (632) 231-1688
www.shangri-la.com

Manila Pavilion
Manila Pavilion Hotel
UN Avenue, Ermita, Manila, 1000
Tel. (632) 526-1212 / Fax (632) 526-2552
www.manilapavilion.com.ph

Oakwood Premier Ayala Center
6th Floor, Glorietta 4, Ayala Center
Makati City, Metro Manila
Tel. (632) 729-8888 loc. 8101 Fax: (632) 728-0000 / echus@oakwood.com.ph
www.oakwood.com

Royal Mandaya Hotel
J. Palma Gil St. Davao City
Tel. (082) 225-8888/Fax (082) 225-1888

Subic
Subic International Hotel
Subic Bay, Free Port Zone, Olongapo City
Manila: 243-2222 / F: 243-0852
http://www.subicohotel.com

SUMMER PLACE HOTEL
Summer Place Hotel
Km. 288 Marcos Highway, Baguio City
Tel. (074) 446-0560, 446-5400-01
www.SummerPlaceBaguio.com

Taal Vista Hotel
Managed by Fuego Hotels & Properties
Km. 60 Aguinaldo Highway, Tagaytay City
Tel. (6332) 886-4325, (6346) 413-1000
Email: taalvista@fuegohotels.com

The Marco Polo
CM Recto St. Davao City 8000
Tel. (082) 221-0888/Fax (082) 225-0111
www.marcopohotels.com

Waterfront Hotel Lahug
1 Salinas Drive, Lahug Cebu City
Tel. (6332) 232-6888/Fax (6332) 232-6880
www.waterfronthotels.net

Waterfront Hotel Mactan
1 Airport Road, Lapu Lapu City. 6015
Tel. (6332) 340-4808/Fax (632) 340-5693
www.waterfronthotels.net

Sushi @ more

FOR THE WHOLE MONTH OF JUNE AND JULY, DINING at Dusit Hotel Nikko's Benkay to enjoy authentic Japanese cuisine at its finest gets even better every Saturday and Sunday.

Lunchtime is "Sushi O' More" time as Benkay takes your dining pleasure to the next level with its mouth-watering sushi selections.

Take pleasure in and choose from among the wide variety of sushi prepared by Benkay's well-loved sushi chefs. Choice of sushi starts at P100++.

For inquiries and reservations, please call 867-3333.

Astoria Plaza Hotel announcement

To all our valued clients:

We would like to assure all our clients that Astoria Plaza Hotel is in full operation and is in compliance with all regulations of the City of Pasig.

The recent report regarding the closure of Astoria Hotel located at the corner of Makati Avenue and Eduque St., refers to The Astor Hotel which is operated by the group of Manuel Morato.

Astoria Plaza is located at No. 15 Escriba Drive, Ortigas Business District, Pasig City. It is not, in any manner, connected with the said Astor Hotel.

For inquiries and reservations please contact us at 6871111 or visit our website at www.astoriaplaza.com

Bellevue Dance Party @ 20/20

THE ENTERTAINMENT AND LEISURE destination of choice in the southern Metro Manila area, The Bellevue Hotel, invites everyone to put on their dancing shoes for the exciting Bellevue Dance Party on Saturday, July 29 at the hotel's 20/20 Entertainment Bar. Held every other Saturdays at 7 p.m., the event relives the dance music fever of the seventies, sixties and other all-time favorite tunes in a dance arena overlooking the beautiful night lights of the south. Tapping the genius of Poncy Quirino, a well-known party organizer during the seventies and himself a dance master, this event will undoubtedly shake the southern Metro Manila party scene. Entrance fee of P500nett gets you in with two standard drinks, plus a special happy hour rate happens at the stroke of midnight. For inquiries, call 771-8181.



Business made easy at Somerset Salcedo

WITH ITS STRATEGIC LOCATION at the heart of the central business district, its wide range of function rooms, business centre services, and impeccable services, Somerset Salcedo, Makati is an ideal location for expatriates and business travellers to hold meetings and entertain clients.

Whether it is for a business meeting, seminar or social gathering, Somerset Salcedo Makati offers a variety of function room packages and personalized services to cater to every resident's business needs.

Located on the 6th floor, the Somerset Salcedo Makati Confer-

ence Room is an ideal meeting facility that can cater to groups of 25 to 70 persons. Somerset Salcedo's special function room packages include a wide selection of food and beverage choices, modern audio-visual equipment and broadband Internet access. Experienced staff will assist in coordinating the event and will be on site to help ensure that the event is run smoothly.

At the top floor of Somerset Salcedo is the spacious Penthouse which can cater to a variety of events. Stretching over 150 sqm., the Penthouse presents an idyllic space for large group seminars

and special social get-togethers. For the convenience of business executives who wish to unwind at the end of their meetings, Somerset Salcedo offers 155 fully furnished and stylishly designed serviced residence units where executives can recluse and relax. Residents can also enjoy a range of recreational facilities including fitness centre, indoor swimming pool, jacuzzi, restaurants, bar and residents lounge.

With a panoramic view of the city in the background, coupled with its wide options of special function room packages and facilities, occasions held at Som-

erset Salcedo Makati will be an event to remember.

For more information on Somerset Salcedo's Function Room Packages, please contact our Central Sales Office at (63-2) 888-0531 or e-mail at enquiry.manila@the-ascott.com.



People, Events & Products



SWEET CRYSTALS INTEGRATED RECEIVES HACCP CERTIFICATION

Sweet Crystals Integrated Sugar Mills (Scism), one of the most productive sugar milling corporations in the country, and fully owned by All Asian Countertrade Inc (AACI), recently received the honor of being the first sugar mill in Luzon to pass the stringent HACCP audit, in an awarding ceremony held at the Makati Shangri-La Hotel. The event was well-attended by Scism and AACI officials, Philippine Sugar Millers Association, top clients from the food industry, major bankers of Scism, and Vice Mayor Carlito Cruz of Porac, Pampanga. The HACCP or Hazard Analysis and Critical Points is a globally-accepted approach to food safety that addresses physical, chemical and biological hazards covering

all stages of food production and preparation. The two-week audit of mill conducted by the Technischer Überwachungsverein (TUV), or Technical Inspection Association Philippines, tested all critical facets of mill operations that were evaluated based on the Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) on sanitation of mill and processes involved, pest control, house-keeping, and safety and quality of products. Present in the official awarding are (from left) Jo Kue, TUV marketing, Michael Escaler, Scism chair, Pinky Zamora, TUV marketing, Joel Cayasan, Scism business unit head, Jojo Gana, Scism president, Gene Ochavillo, Scism QC head, May Cuevas, Scism marketing and Bobby Ortiz, Scism CFO.

ACER APPOINTS BRIDGE DISTRIBUTION AS DISTRIBUTOR

In a move to further expand its distribution network in the Philippines and reach a bigger base of users, Acer Philippines Inc announced recently that it has appointed its 4th distributor in the country, Bridge Distribution Inc. A subsidiary of Phil-Data Business Systems Inc, Bridge Distribution Inc will manage channels for Acer desktop and server products. Acer Philippines Inc, for its part, is happy to take Bridge Distribution Inc into its fold as part of its network of distributors, further expressing optimism in Bridge's capability to further grow Acer's business. Photo shows, (seated, from left) Manuel Wong, general manager, Acer Philippines; Ruthier Ng, vice president and general manager, Bridge Distribution Inc. Witnessing the MOA signing are (from left) Mannix Lim, sales manager, Bridge Distri-



bution Inc; Agnes Espino, marketing manager, Acer Phils; and Oliver Pabilla, product manager, Bridge Distribution Inc.

HealthToday fitness seminars

HEALTHTODAY MAGAZINE presents a series of workshops, seminars and demos on June 24 at the Megatrade Hall 3 in SM Megamall. Diverse subjects on caring not only for the self, but also for the family will be discussed at the health exhibit, covering fitness tips and trends of interest to mothers and working women everywhere, tasty and nutritious cooking for the family, caring for the husband and child rearing. The lecture-seminars will run from 1 p.m. until 6:30 p.m., while a conditioning cum well-being exhibit will be open the whole day. There will also be free health services like medical consultation, bone scanning, body-mass index measurements, blood pressure monitoring and more. Raffle prizes and gifts await lucky visitors. Part of the proceeds from this health exhibit will go to Gawad Kalinga to help build communities for the underprivileged. Entrance is free. Those who will bring a copy of the June 2006 issue of HealthToday can avail of free health services. Contact MediMarketing Inc at 886-0333 or 886-0342, local 113 or 115 to guarantee seats for the seminars.

'Ampalaya...' book now available at Powerbooks

AMERICAN AUTHOR FRANK MURRAY RECENTLY paid the country a visit for the formal launching of his book "Ampalaya: Nature's Remedy For Type 1 and Type 2 Diabetes" at Powerbooks in Greenbelt 4. Murray traveled to the Philippines to research and get a first-hand look at the Ampalaya and how it is used to help diabetics in the country. His book takes an in-depth look at the healing properties of the Ampalaya demonstrating its efficacy using both scientific studies and case histories of individuals using Charantia, the country's leading Ampalaya food supplement product. Also detailed are how diabetics can care for their eyes, kidneys and feet, and the importance of nutrition, exercise and support groups. Herbcare Corporation made possible Murray's visit in the Philippines for the book launch. Prior to his visit, Murray also attended the Natural Products Expo held in Anaheim California and at the Philippine Consulate in New York where his work was met with commendation.



SCIENCE/HEALTH

Text us your feedback: Inquirer hea name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Editor Cesar D. Mangawang

A child's brain development optimized through music

By Tessa R. Salazar

WHO COULD HAVE thought the musically inclined would also do well with a scalpel or a protractor? According to studies cited by US-licensed educator Jeannie H. Castillo, 66 percent of music majors who apply to medical school are admitted. The best engineers and technical designers in Silicon Valley are nearly without exception practicing musicians.

Furthermore, she adds, the world's top academic countries place a premium on music education. Children in countries like Hungary, Netherlands and Japan take their music lessons seriously.

From these, Castillo boldly concludes a direct co-relation between the inclination to music and the ability to excel in various other fields.

Stimulating brain dev't

Castillo, who teaches children up to 7 years old at her new Kindermusik studio in Cubao, Quezon City, revealed in a recent press conference how music and interaction stimulate the overall brain development of a child in a way that nothing else can.

Castillo says that when a child is exposed to early stimulation—whether they're talked to by parents, held, sung to, danced with or engaged in play—synapses, or the connections between neurons in a child's brain, are created and stimulated.

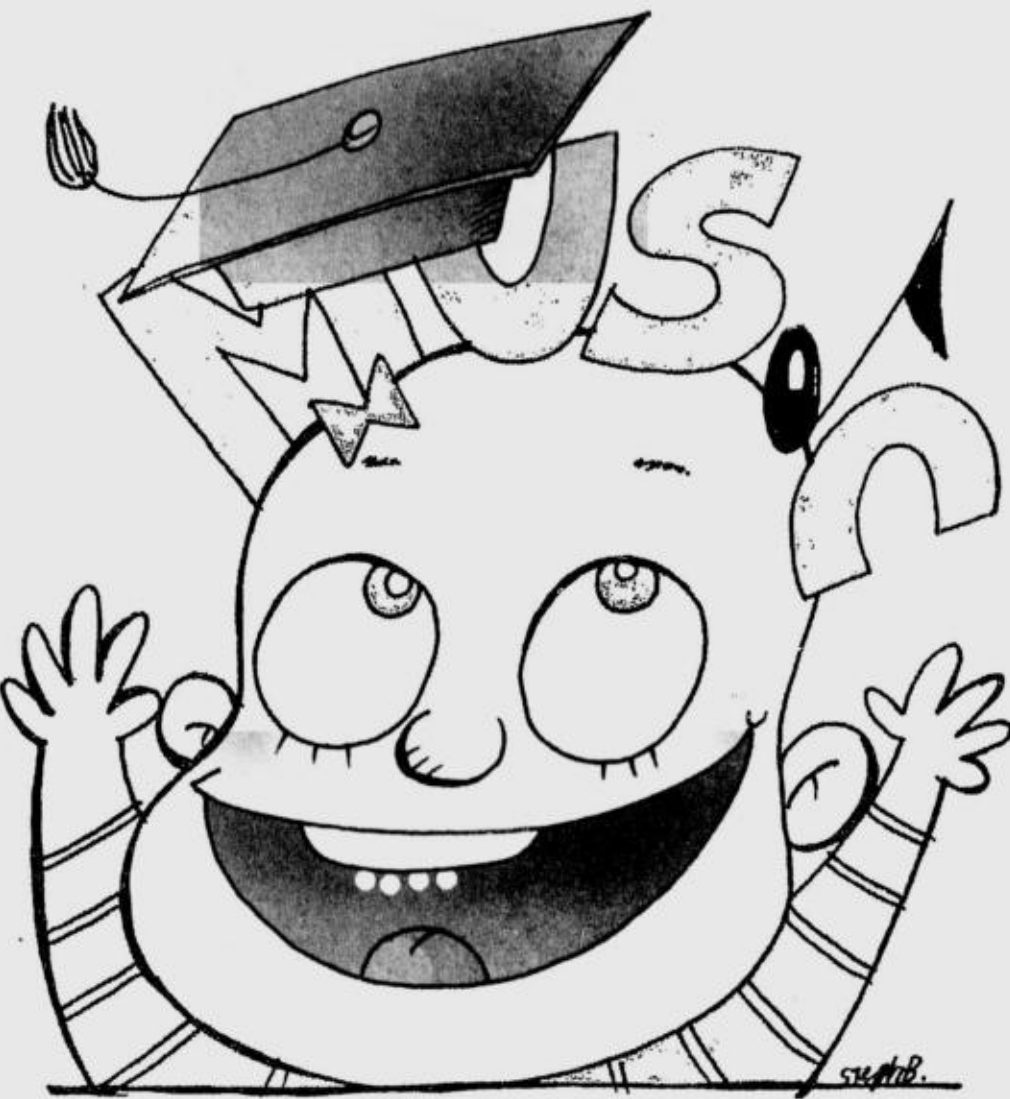
She adds that the more a child interacts with a parent or teacher, the more connections are created between neurons, paving the way for brain development.

And then there's music, which seems to play an important role in a child's emotional development.

"When a child is exposed to music, his or her emotions are engaged. There's an emotional component to music that makes people happy, especially when this music is experienced with a parent or caregiver that the child feels comfortable with. The child learns through the limbic system," she says.

Primed for learning

Castillo adds that when a child feels positive emotions with the person who is teaching them, when they are listening to music that



makes them feel happy, their brain is primed for learning.

"Taking it a step further, when a child is held or danced with or encouraged to play with musical instruments, it also works the motor development area of their brain," she says.

Castillo explains this develops a child's physical skills, and enhances the child's ability to listen.

"Being able to develop an acute sense of hearing and knowing how to listen is related to language development," she says.

Brain activities

Castillo says music engages both sides of the brain. The area that connects the two sides of the brain, the corpus callosum can be 5 to 15 percent larger for children who are ex-

posed to music than those who are not.

Dr. Elizabeth Ventura, professor and chair of the UP Department of Psychology, says magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) results from musicians engaged in their craft show activity in all areas of their brains.

"Music and interaction are like cross training for children's brains, so there are more neural connections developed. The more they engage in music, the stronger the neural connections will be," Castillo says.

Stronger and more neural connections, she says, serve like "information superhighways" when the children become adults. Brain signals and external stimuli travel faster.

In a way, music helps "pave" these superhighways, so other skills related to reading, math and critical thinking are better facilitated.

Study results serve as guide for schizo treatment

By Charles E. Buban

WHEN FACED WITH THE fact that the first chosen antipsychotic drug is not effective or has intolerable side effects, both doctors and patients alike struggle to decide which drug to try next.

But thanks to the results of the second phase of the Antipsychotic Trials of Intervention Effectiveness (Catie) study, the question of which drug to try next may now be just a bit easier to answer.

The second Catie study, whose results were published in April, found that many schizophrenia patients who don't respond well to their first chosen antipsychotic medication improved after switching to a second medication.

The Catie study is the largest, longest and most comprehensive independent trial ever done to examine existing therapies for schizophrenia involving more than 1,400 patients in a span of 18 months at 57 medical facilities) and funded by the US government rather than pharmaceutical companies.

Guide

"With the results of the first and second phase already known, doctors, patients and their families will now have a guide on which drug will fit the patient's situation best and what side effects to expect," says Dr. Jose Tablante, Eli Lilly Philippines medical director.

In the first phase, nearly three-fourths of the patients did not complete the supposed 18-month long trial for any one the following reasons: inadequate effectiveness in controlling their symptoms, intolerable side effects or their own decision not to continue.

The drugs that showed benefits throughout the two phases of the Catie trial include Eli Lilly's olanzapine (Zyprexa) wherein test patients were "less likely to be hospitalized for a psychotic relapse and tended to stay on the medication longer than patients taking other medications."

However, researchers noted that olanzapine patients also experienced weight gain as well as increase in total cholesterol and triglyceride levels than patients taking the other drugs.

Evaluating tradeoffs

Tablante says the result only show why it is very important for doctors and patients alike to carefully evaluate the tradeoffs between efficacy and side effects and the study results may serve as a guide.

"Prior to the Catie study, doctors and patients don't have an idea how patients should be subsequently treated when one drug did not perform as expected and how the drugs compare to each other has not been well established. Because of the phase 2 study, a patient who didn't do well on one drug for a particular reason, is now provided with information on what drug to choose next," he adds.

Schizophrenia is a chronic, recurrent mental illness, characterized by hallucinations, delusions, and disordered thinking. Previous studies have demonstrated that taking antipsychotic medication is far more effective than taking no medicine at all, and that taking it consistently is essential to the long-term treatment of this severe, disabling disorder.

Although the medications alone are not sufficient to cure the disease, Tablante explains they are necessary to manage it.

Cell phone use linked to brain tumors?

By Rafael R. Castillo, MD

WHEN WE THINK OF A TYPICAL 21st century scenario of an urban dweller's lifestyle, we usually include cell phones, PDAs, notebooks, computers, microwave ovens and TVs in the picture. They are very much a part of our world and to many, it's impossible to imagine a life without them. And what do all these devices have in common? With prolonged exposure, they can also be a harmful source of electromagnetic field (EMF) radiation.

EMF pollution causes a different type of environmental pollution which can be more risky to one's health than the usual air pollution we can easily detect and protect ourselves from. EMF radiation is a major stressor of the body and we get a fair amount of it every day, everywhere. Yet, we can't see it, we can't hear it, we can't smell it.

Conflicting results

Some researches seem to suggest that the increased incidence of brain tumors during the last decade or so is attributable to cell phone use. Preliminary data would show that the brain tumor is usually located on the side where the patient would use his/her cell phone.

But results from studies have been conflicting. Last year, the Dutch Health Council, reviewing all available data from all over the world, found no conclusive evidence that radiation from mobile phones and TV towers was harmful. A four-year British survey released early this year also showed no link between regular, long-term use of cell phones and brain tumor.

These earlier publications seemed reassuring to cell phone users until researchers at the Swedish National Institute for Working Life observed in their study that the use of mobile phones over

a long period of time can raise the risk for brain tumors, contradicting the conclusions of earlier researches.

The Swedish researchers looked at the mobile phone use of 905 people between the age of 20 and 80 who had been diagnosed with a cancerous brain tumor, and they found a link with their cell phone use.

The study noted that 85 of these 905 cases were so-called high users of mobile phones, that is they began early to use mobile and/or wireless telephones and used them a lot. Similar to the observations of previous studies, the tumors were more prevalent on the side of the head where the phone was said to be used.

Increased risk

Dr. Kjell Mild, head investigator of the study, said the figures meant that heavy

users of mobile phones, accumulating 2,000 hours or more of cell phone use in their life, had a 240 percent increased risk for a malignant tumor on the side of the head the phone is used. In practical terms, if one uses cell phones an average of one hour a day (total daily use), he would have a 240 percent risk of developing a brain tumor in 5.4 years compared to nonusers of cell phones.

Dr. Mild suggested that to get the risk down, one should use hands-free phones but other experts don't seem to agree. They hypothesize that hands-free devices even serve as an antenna that attract more EMF radiation.

Another important observation in some of these studies is that children and younger people are more vulnerable to EMF waves due to their relatively thinner skulls, which are still maturing and growing. With the unlimited text and call promos available in our country, many youngsters spend minutes and some-

times hours making "teleshopping" on their cell phones. This can pose a potential problem later on.

Inadequate disclosure

Since hands-free devices don't seem to offer any protection, the only safeguard I can think of at this point to minimize EMF radiation from cell phones is to use it only when it's necessary. If a landline is available, then we should use it instead of the cell phone.

And just like the cigarette manufacturers, the network providers (Globe, Smart, and Sun) should also have a line at the bottom of their advertisements stating something like: "Preliminary evidence suggests that accumulated exposure to cell phone radiation might increase the risk of brain tumors." This should free them from any liability of inadequate disclosure which cell phone users who eventually develop brain tumors might file against them.

Now read, not just watch, Discovery Channel

STRAIGHT FROM THE DISCOVERY Channel: The one-celled amoeba leads far from a shapeless and boring existence. It has a nice life actually, eating until it doubles in size and splits. It walks in a funny but sly way, rearranging itself and protruding on one side on fake feet, which make it move forward, grasp the surface, pull the rest of the body, and after that literally tiring step, reabsorb the fake foot till the next move. And that's just the amoeba—think of the possibilities for paramecium, cilia, bacteria, etc. This almost makes one want to be a biologist.

Speaking of cells, all cells, including ours, are really 90 percent water, with the rest divided among protein, carbohydrate, fat, nucleic acid. We start out when a bold male sperm cell makes contact with the mother's egg cell, dividing merrily away until different kinds of cells are formed. (The heart beats for the first time 21 days after fertilization.)

Small chambers

But where did the word "cell" come from? When scientist Robert Hooke, who trained as a painter, observed magnified pieces of cork (yes, cork!) under the microscope, he saw rows of little boxes reminiscent of bees' honeycomb. With artistic ingenuity, he drew and dubbed them cells, meaning small chambers (think of a cell in a jail). By the way, if you want to look at cells for yourself, you don't need cork. Slice an onion, peel off an inner layer and study under a lens. And quick: What's another name for a bacteria party? A cell-abration, of course.

No, I did not get all this information from Discovery Channel TV or the VCD, though. I read about all these from "Micro: The Cell Files," part of the series Discovery Channel School, 32 pages filled with photos, diagrams, factoids and a puzzle or two—all written in an engaging lively manner guaranteed not to turn away the science phobic. The series is in-

EUREKA!

Queena N. Lee-Chua



tended for US grades 5 to 9; I recommend them for Filipino students in Grade 4 up, though smart younger kids will also benefit), and of course, teachers and parents can use them to up on the basics and catch up with what's new.

Traveled back in time

"In Twisted: The Genetics Files," I traveled back in time to meet Gregor Mendel and his peas; James Watson and Francis Crick and the DNA double helix; and what's more, even rode a wild ride on the molecule itself, replete with blow-by-blow descriptions of its constituents. Did you know that we carry 100 billion

miles of DNA in our body?

I eavesdropped on an interview with Dolly, the first cloned sheep, and with a pang realized that she would not survive long after this. (I hope Discovery Channel updates this book to include Dolly's recent death.) Along with twins (identical twins do not have the same fingerprints) and clones (a la "Jurassic Park"), then I met John Merrick, the so-called Elephant Man (immortalized in the movie of the same name), with a growth on his face resembling a tusk; and the vampire, who might have suffered from a rare disease called congenital erythropoietic porphyria, which made the victim extremely sensitive to light (hence, Dracula's preference for the night). What's more, according to Canadian biochemist David Dolphin, garlic would make the disease worse.

Two other books in the series, "React: The Nuclear Energy Files" and "Conserve: The Natural Resources Files" segue from Einstein, fusion, the atomic

bomb, nuclear reactors to half life, X-rays, uranium, nuclear power; and from redwood forests, natural parks, John Muir to recycling, toxic smog, pollution, reforestation, respectively.

Very reasonable price

Last year, after obtaining the copyright, Anvil Publishing came out with these four books, which are available in major bookstores. Best of all, each volume is priced at a very reasonable P95, to make science accessible for all. For more information, call Anvil at 637-3621 or 747-1622 (ask for Gwenn or Lory) or e-mail at anvilpublishing@yahoo.com.

And by the way, by the time it takes you to finish this column, more than 300 million cells will have died inside you. But don't panic—around the same number are being created. We are all dying and being born at every moment.

E-mail the author at blessbook@yahoo.com.

The Resort Experience.

Meet in five-star hotel • Play golf • Unwind in a spa • Work out • Dine on East-West cuisine
• Shop and play • Experience it all in a resort-in-the-city that is your home •

Sarasota

The newest phase of
The Residential Resort at Newport City
The Metro's First and Only Luxury Resort Residences
Gozar Street, Newport City, Pasay City



Live everyday a fresh new way, with a feeling of adventure and fun, in your home within a resort. Right next to...

the Marriott Hotel...



Where you can experience five-star luxury any time of day. Here, 350 elegantly appointed rooms are matched by business centers and luxurious leisure amenities.

a modern Fitness Center...



The whole family will enjoy hours of healthy recreation with first-rate amenities including a gym, adult and children's swimming pools, tennis and badminton courts and landscaped play areas.

the Villamor Golf Course...



A championship-level playground for golf aficionados. Tee off in the 60-hectare, 18-hole, par-72 green. Non-golfers can enjoy front-row views of the sprawling landscape.

a luxurious indoor Spa...

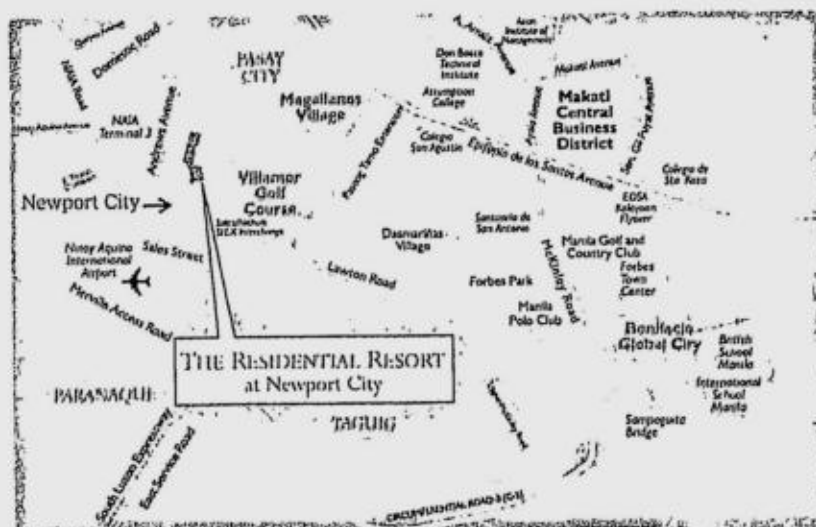


Where you can unwind amid top-notch therapeutic facilities, heat and exercise pools and aromatherapy and massage rooms.

and a themed Dining, Shopping and Entertainment Complex.



Explore a streetscape of international restaurants, stylish boutiques and alfresco cafés with live performances—all within walking distance from home.



At Sarasota, discover the privileges of living close to nature in a Mediterranean-style resort setting inspired by Lake Las Vegas. Choose from an executive studio, 1-bedroom or 2-bedroom home, with wide windows and balconies.

The elegant, earth-toned residential buildings are no more than 9 stories high, so air can flow freely. Each building boasts its own lobby and ample basement parking. Aside from a guarded entrance gate, a tree-lined perimeter fence encloses the entire community. The interior roads are wide and made safe for children.

And the homes are clustered around the play amenities, making it easy for neighbors to get together at the lap pool, putting green, fitness station or tennis court. Or at the sitting area and the aviary with benches. Children, too, will enjoy hours of fun in their own pool and play areas.

Join us on June 25, Sunday,
9 AM to 5 PM, at the Newport City
Grand Showroom.

Own this
2-bedroom unit
for as low as
P23,000
a month.



Exclusive Marketing Arm:



Megaworld Newport
Property Holdings, Inc.

Newport City Information Centre, Newport City, Pasay City, Metro Manila, Philippines
(632) 855-7580 • 855-7583 • 855-7594 • 855-7586

For Announcement Purposes Only

PROPERTY

Middle class housing amid business area

By Tessa R. Salazar

THE BACKBONE OF THE nation—the middle class—should be able to afford a housing program near their workplace.

For architect Gilbert C. Yu, that housing program isn't just near the workplace. It's at the center of it. Yu and his firm G&W Architects and Associates offer a build-to-own scheme, provide direct cost, and eliminate the middleman to bring down the cost of housing.

G&W Architects and Associates, which caters to a broad spectrum of the middle class and the "entry-level" A class, features clients that fit the economic profile of bank branch managers.

His project, The Grand Hamptons at Crescent West Fort Bonifacio Global City, has a starting price of P2.3 million on a P17,217.51 monthly payment scheme for a 46-square-meter bedroom unit, and a high-end two-bedroom unit of 77.91 sq m that goes for P3.9 million, or P29,187.95 per month.

His lot portions, he says, were bought at a "high price."

According to him, city-centered homes for the middle class go for P2 million.

Affordable

"The homeowner might probably afford a down payment of 10 percent, or P200,000, then have the P1.8 million amortized, which is around P19,000 a month. *Kayang kaya 'yan* (That's affordable)," he says.

Yu also suggests that with a subsidized government land and a build-to-own method, one can afford a home at the center of where he or she works, which will give buyers a "quality time for their children."

"Right now they travel two to four hours back and forth, they will have a very unusual family way of life because they are not with their kids in their homes," he says.

According to Yu, the build-to-own scheme provides a home buyer an alternative to the "monopolized old system." It allows technical people like architects, engineers, contractors and suppliers to serve buyers directly, instead of dealing with middlemen.

He adds that this new system will respect other legitimate professionals like realtors and property brokers.

In-city development

Phinma Property Holdings Corp., known during its early years as a developer of high-end projects such as Manila Polo Club Townhouses, Mariposa Villas and Mariposa Square, has concretized what it says is its social responsibility: the affordable medium-rise housing project in urban areas for young families, self-employed individuals and overseas Filipino workers (OFWs).

Phinma Property Holdings' medium-rise Spazio Bernardo at a 1.6-hectare property on Mindanao Avenue, Quezon City—a 10-minute ride from SM City North Edsa—offers 30-sq-m units at a cost of P575,000 on its higher floors, true to its slogan "City Living Made Easy."

Its other development Sunny Villas, near Commonwealth Avenue, Quezon City, costs even lower at P440,000 for a 30-sq-m unit.

Phinma Property president and CEO Willie J. Uy says that when his group started with low-cost horizontal housing projects during President Cory Aquino's time, they were in San Pedro and Cavite.

Uy says that though home buyers were happy to have their own houses, it took them up to three hours to commute from their home to their place of work. Quality time with the family was gone.

Building system

"So we sent our engineers to other Southeast Asian countries to see what kind of housing is suitable for people living in the urban areas. We saw that the only way to go was vertical. We had to look for a building system because the cost of land in Metro Manila is high," Uy says.

Phinma decided on a cast-in-place European-based technology which he describes as good as high-end developments in Metro Manila.

This building system enables the developer to finish units quickly. Spazio Bernardo, with 957 units (at over 11 buildings), was completed in just 9 months.

Cast in place is a high-tech "buhos on site," which affords a fast 18 hours per floor work rate, said Grant Orbeta, PPHC assistant vice president for marketing and design.

Orbeta adds that the units are module-type. An owner has an option to have a bigger unit by purchasing two 30-sq-m units and joining them.

Earthquake resistant

Uy says this system enables PPHC to deliver low-cost condo housing projects around the country at a much faster rate without resorting to cheap construction materials and questionable quality of finished products.

tionable quality of finished products.

PPHC claims its projects are found to be compliant with Zone 4 earthquake standards being the highest level of earthquake resistance.

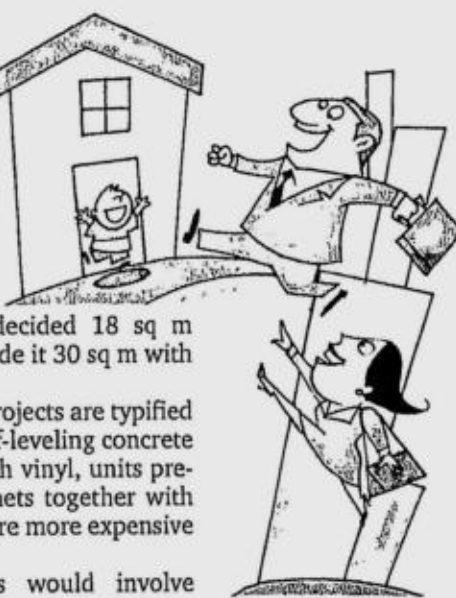
The PPHC's five-story condo building projects such as Smile CitiHomes, Smile Annex, Sunny Villas and Spazio Bernardo all use this system of construction.

"By law, if you go into low-cost housing, the minimum is 18 sq m (according to Batasang

Pambansa 220) but we decided 18 sq m would be too small. We made it 30 sq m with one bedroom," says Uy.

Phinma's medium-rise projects are typified by aluminum windows, self-leveling concrete for floors for flat finish with vinyl, units pre-painted, and kitchen cabinets together with toilets. The ground floors are more expensive than the upper floors.

Phinma's next projects would involve building 36-sq-m units.



NO LEAKS!

No drips, no cracks...no worries!



RECOMMENDED FOR CITY & URBAN HOUSING, MARINE & INDUSTRIAL ENVIRONMENT.



Roof-Sealer

Available at: ALL Ace/SM Workshop, Handyman-Do It Best, Wilson Builders and other leading hardware shops. For dealership particulars call: 372-9468

BRENTVILLE

International Community



My five-year old
can say "Hello"
in six languages.

All images are actual photos taken from the site.

Who says one language is enough for your child?
At Brentville, let your child enjoy a lifestyle of cultural diversity
and luxury in a fully-developed community.

Home to Brent International School

Ideally situated and just a 10-minute drive from Alabang and 30 minutes from Makati

World-class facilities including underground power and communication system

24-hour 3-level security protocol

Existing and thriving international community

2005
MOST
OUTSTANDING
INTERNATIONAL
COMMUNITY

Hosted by
Philippine Merchants Exchange Awards Institute
National Community Affairs Foundation (NCAF)
5 Yearly Excellence Awards Committee

PROMINENCE II townhouses



KASSANDRA house model



MAIN CLUBHOUSE and POOL



How to get there: Brentville International is only 10 minutes away from
Filinvest Corporate City, Alabang. From the South Luzon Expressway,
take the Mamplasan Exit, turn left from the toll gate and you will find
Brentville International.

Enjoy big discounts at our open house today.

Call 807-6611 / 807-6907

FILINVEST

INVEST ON SOLID GROUND

www.brentville.com

Post occupancy evaluation and green buildings

IF YOUR BUILDING HAD A REPORT card to check what works and what doesn't, how would it fare? Will it get a passing or a failing grade? For that matter how do you rate or evaluate a building?

In most cases, buildings are meticulously studied and analyzed during the design phase. Countless man-hours are spent studying the external design and the building systems that will keep the building running. Once the building is completed, minimal evaluation is done, and if done at all, the study is focused on the building itself excluding the needs of the occupants.

What happens when buildings are not evaluated after their completion? The following are classic examples.

We have many buildings where the occupants learn to cope with unwanted sunlight in their work areas. They cover their windows with all sorts of devices to shield themselves from the harsh tropical sun. They hang banners, posters, cardboard, old blinds, etc. Most designers are not aware of these effects based on their designs. Through post occupancy evaluation, these flaws are brought out.

Another similar example would be the use of excessive daylight in the building. If not properly handled with shading and light control, this can cause excessive glare for workers, especially those working with computers. This could result in low productivity.

Excessively low temperature that makes occupants literally freeze can also be as harmful to workers' health and productivity, just as very high, humid temperatures can also affect occupants' performance.

What is post occupancy evaluation?

Post occupancy evaluation (POE), first used over 25 years ago, is a comprehensive and systematic evaluation of a building's design—especially green buildings—after it has been built and occupied for some time. It is the most effective way for architects and the entire design team to see if the building functions well.

Main goal

Post occupancy evaluation is a powerful

GREEN ARCHITRENDS

Amado de Jesus



diagnostic tool used to assess the building's strengths and weaknesses from the standpoint of the occupants. Its main goal is to document and measure indoor air quality, evaluate how buildings are assembled and maintained, how occupants' satisfaction, comfort and productivity are enhanced, and how the value of a property can be increased.

The evaluation is done by rating the building's actual performance against the design's required performance. For example, if the building's lobby was designed to maximize the use of daylight to reduce energy consumption, is this the actual condition in the lobby?

A post occupancy evaluation considers the needs, perceptions and requirements of the owners, operators and occupants. Based on this, a building's performance shows how well it functions to fill the needs of the client's organization, as well as the needs of the occupants in that organization.

Typical questions that might be included in the evaluation are:

- Does the building and its facilities support or prevent the organization from carrying out its mission?
 - Are the materials environment-friendly or do some materials cause illnesses due to emission of toxic elements?
 - Is the building faithful to the original criteria drawn up during the early design phase?
- Post occupancy evaluation reports normally have the following elements ranked in order of priority:
- Top priority—health, safety, security
 - Second priority—function, efficiency, work flow
 - Third priority—psychological, social cultural

Qualitative analysis

While case studies on building systems done in the 1970s and 1980s focused on the technical performance of buildings, the latest step in post occupancy evaluation emphasizes a holistic, process-oriented approach to evaluation that includes not only the facilities but also the political, economic and social aspects that affect the building and its occupants.

Purposes of POE

The POE can be used to check if a building design is functional or appropriate and if it conforms with the building's performance requirements. Examples can include the required cooling temperature in the board room or the right speed of the elevators during peak hours.

Another purpose is to adjust programs for identical and repetitive facilities. Through the POE, improvements in programming and the design criteria can be done to justify any repetitive design solutions.

The POE can also be used to make extensive research on the effects of buildings on their occupants. It can also be used to test the application of new concepts to justify the actions and costs involved.

3 phases of POE

- Planning
- Conducting
- Applying

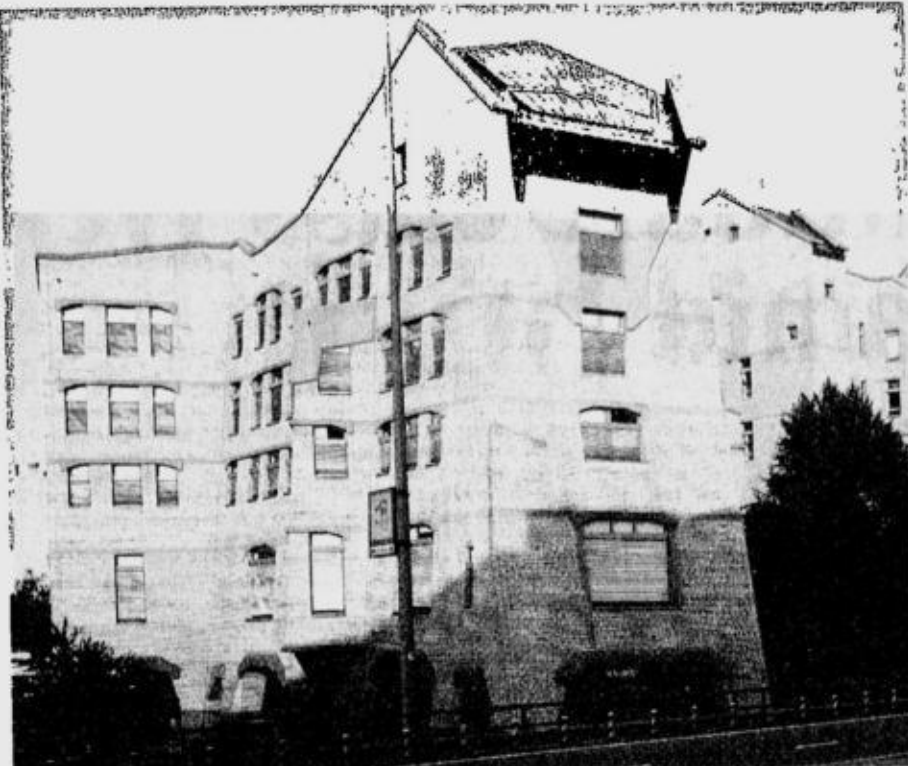
The first phase is planning. It involves establishing the schedules, costs and manpower needs and data collection procedures.

The second phase is conducting, which involves field data collection.

The third phase is applying which means reporting findings, making recommendations and reviewing outcomes.

Benefits and uses of POE

Once an evaluation is completed, recommendations can be analyzed by the client and adjustments can be done to correct the problems.



THE ING BANK Headquarters in Amsterdam, Netherlands is a world-renowned green building. Completed in 1987, it enjoys high occupants' satisfaction rating resulting in very significant high employee productivity. It features extensive use of daylight, high-energy efficiency and architectural innovations such as curvilinear form, local materials, plants, artwork and flowing water incorporated into the building in a highly integrated fashion.

Through this process, lessons can be learned and improvements applied to future projects.

The benefits and uses of the POE can be grouped into short-, medium- and long-term.

The intermediate 35-year time frame is necessary for new construction projects. The long-term frame ranging from 10 to 25 years is suited for strategic planning, budgeting and comprehensive master plan studies.

Most important benefit

The most important benefit of a post occupancy evaluation is its positive influence on the design of appropriate environments for human beings through improvements in programming and planning.

Post occupancy evaluation is a type of product research that helps architects and designers develop a better design to support the changing requirements of people and organizations.

Post occupancy evaluation can help strike a balance between facilities and organizations, including the people and the activities they support.

(For comments or inquiries, e-mail amadodejesus@gmail.com.)

Bonifacio Global City soon to sport a new logo

AN ABSTRACT FIGURE IN LIME green and deep aquamarine with a bold touch of orange is now the new logo of Bonifacio Global City. Representing a new master plan for the heart of the emerging business district, the new logo is the face of Bonifacio Global City's ambitious relaunch.

Following the acquisition of a controlling stake in Fort Bonifacio Development Corp., partners Ayala Land Inc. and Evergreen Holdings Inc. are giving a grand makeover to the rising district strategically located in Taguig.

From a circular road network that would give rise to a host of problems including traffic choke points and odd-shaped lots, the new City Center master plan will transform BGC into a premier business district that really works.

4 new elements

The plan introduces four new



elements: 1) a road network with a grid layout that would allow for more efficient traffic management; 2) dedicated bus lanes for a managed public transit loop; 3) pedestrian walkways which comfortably and conveniently link buildings to parking and transit systems; and, 4) well-distributed and broadly accessible park areas

to serve as focal points.

One of the earliest tangible benefits of the new City Center master plan is an innovative retail development which will be launched later this year. The development's centerpiece is a 40-meter-wide landscaped area that will be 400 meters in length and will be lined by stores and restaurants with the latest and most novel concepts. From fashion and beauty, health and wellness, home accessories and furnishings, sports lifestyle, anything is just a literal walk down the road.

Urban haven

The vision of the new business district is captured in the new Bonifacio Global City logo with the main visual element, a lime green circle representing the City Center's transformation into an urban haven. Its progressive nature is captured by the overlapping lines that allude to modern contemporary art and at the same time express the movement and fluidity of a mixed-use site where the boundaries between work, leisure, and personal spaces will no longer be strictly defined.

The circle also represents completeness and convergence, qualities that will further define the self-sustaining business district. The square within the circle communicates a sense of structure and stability within this ever-changing urban landscape. The logo makes use of deep aquamarine to express the energy and vibrance with a contrast offered by bright colors for passion and creativity. This horizontal band evokes the new east-west axis centered on the retail promenade. In its entirety, the logo represents a city steeped in possibilities and teeming with diversity.

The Pinoy dream fulfilled at Canyon Ranch

OWNING A HOME IN AN EXCLUSIVE gated community has become a fundamental Pinoy aspiration. It is the Filipinized version of the American dream of a comfortable life in a white picket-fenced home.

With the country's encouraging economic upsurge, we find ourselves on the verge of the biggest real estate boom in history, and it looks like more and more Pinoy will soon be able to live the new "Filipino" dream.

The postwar period has seen the Alabang area progress into one of the most coveted addresses for Filipino families mainly because of its exclusive environment, sense of security, and accessibility. Today, a home in Alabang is synonymous with prestige, wealth and good taste.

Of course, while most people, expats included, are eager to live in the area, the discerning future homeowner, keen on giving more value to his hard work, has discovered the best kept secret only 10 minutes away: Canyon Ranch.

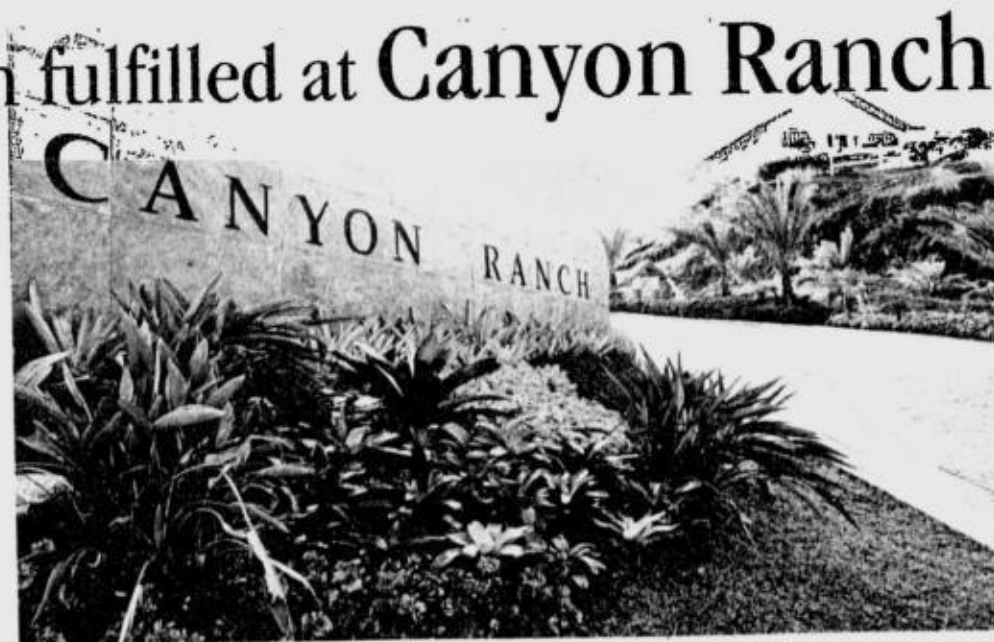
At half the price

Just one toll booth away from the Alabang exit (a mere 10-minute drive) is a most prestigious gated community that rises far above sea level with a unique rolling terrain that has been compared to the magnificent hills of California. This ranch-style development showcases magnificent homes with impressive split-level configurations, expansive balconies that offer an unparalleled view of the breathtaking natural surroundings, and a perpetually cool and breezy climate completely unique to its location. All of these at a price that won't even get you a lot in Alabang.

Concert King Martin Nievera, himself a resident of Alabang, has spoken highly of the incredible value he saw in Canyon Ranch. Starting as low as P2 million, buyers get a magnificent two-story Californian-style home with sun-drenched, free-flowing interiors and view decks that give commanding vistas of vast bodies of water and lush mountains, including the hills of Antipolo, Laguna de Bay, Mt. Banahaw and Mt. Makiling.

Ideal place

Canyon Ranch is an ideal place to raise a



CANYON Ranch is a most prestigious gated community just 10 minutes away from the Alabang exit.

family or to enjoy that long-awaited retirement. Homes are fully Wi-Fi integrated and master-planned with a world-class commercial complex that blends sports and a multitude of entertainment facilities.

The Manila Jockey Club, a world-standard twin-oval horse racetrack with vast stabling facilities, jockey's quarters and a state-of-the-art turf club building, is also just a stone's throw away from the residences. Nearing completion are restaurants and bars, gaming and entertainment areas, an equestrian school and a riding academy.

Canyon Ranch is the first horizontal development of Century Properties, developer of such award-winning projects like Essensa East Forbes, Soho Central, and South of Market.

Says Jose E.B. Antonio, chair of Century Properties Group: "At the core of the Canyon Ranch master plan is an insistence on balance, a lively interplay between work and leisure, between retail spaces and lifestyle, and between private interest and the public good."

Secured investment

As with many overseas Pinoy workers currently investing in Philippine real estate, Martin Nievera (now based in Las Vegas) immediately seized the opportunity of purchasing a



LANAI

piece of property in this community. And as time passes, the Concert King believes that it will be the kind of home that will not only meet the basic needs of his family but will house those precious moments that will last a lifetime.

He says that best of all, his investment is secure with a company like Century, the largest private real estate firm in the Philippines. With a track record of over two decades of visionary real estate, Century Properties has been offering its clients the perfect mix of unbeatable affordability and incomparable luxury in its continuous mission to make the Pinoy's dream come to life.

CrownAsia to launch P7.5-B projects in third quarter

CROWNASIA, THE COUNTRY'S biggest builder of master-planned urban housing, is investing P7.5 billion on new real estate developments in Mega Manila. Following up on the property firm's decade-long leadership in building homes and communities for middle-income families all over the country, CrownAsia will subsequently launch five major projects in the third quarter of 2006.

"As a pioneer master-planned community (MPC) developer in the Philippines, CrownAsia is committed to developing an upgraded line of residential communities," said CrownAsia president Jerry Navarrete. "Each community combines strategic location and well-planned land use, offering homeowners a range of opportunities within a single, self-contained and environmentally responsible community."

Corporate vision

Citing the property firm's corporate vision, Navarrete said CrownAsia offers homes and master-planned communities featuring designs of enduring excellence and value which in turn innovate the residential opportunities in Mega Manila.

Crown City, a 300-hectare mixed-use development (comprised of residential and commercial areas) valued at P3.5 billion will be launched in July. The 10-year master-planned enclave is envisioned to become the town center of Bacoor, Cavite which will feature an IT park, financial district and commercial center with a symphony of residential opportunities such as single-detached homes, walk-up and high-rise condos and townhomes.

The P1-billion Assumption Heights in Antipolo City to be launched on the same month is another mixed-use project inspired by American countryside architecture. To be unveiled in August is the P500-million Altadena in Pasig City, offering a limited number of townhomes to ensure exclusivity for its prime location accessible via Ortigas Avenue.

"CrownAsia has become a major player in condo marketing in as short as two years with Presidio by the Bay launched in May 2005 and Presidio New Manila launched in March 2006," Navarrete said.

Vertical communities

"Two new vertical communities will be unveiled following the success of the first and second condo development," Navarrete said.

The Crown SkyArts University Belt, a P1-billion high-rise development to be launched in July will be located in Sampaloc,

Manila, right across University of Santo Tomas. The 27-story vertical home is ideal for students, doctors and faculty members of neighboring educational facilities.

By August, CrownAsia will launch the Crown Tower Greenbelt, a P1.5-billion condo project located in the heart of Legaspi Village, Makati. The 30-story rise is just a walk away from the educational facilities of the Asian Institute of Management and the commercial and shopping areas of Greenbelt.

The company has commissioned top property consultants Recio-Casas Architects; Coscuel-la & Associates Architectural Firm; Palafox & Associates Architectural Urban Planning and Design Consultancy; and Santos, Caguinquin & Associates (SC&A) to lead the structural design and planning of the new projects.

CrownAsia is presently divided into three development categories: GentleSkylines, vertical self-contained communities to innovate the metro's residential skyline; SignatureHomes, a roster of stand out enclaves reflecting the self-made success of its residents; ProudHometowns, a roster of defined communities which continue to flourish for more Filipino families.

13 ongoing developments

At present, the company has 13 ongoing developments valued at P12 billion in Mega Manila alone. Categorized under GentleSkylines are Presidio at Britany Bay in Sucat, Muntinlupa; and Presidio New Manila in Quezon City; under SignatureHomes are Valenza in Sta. Rosa, Laguna; Residenza and Ponticelli in Bacoor, Cavite; and Mille Luce and Cottonwoods in Antipolo City; and under ProudHometowns are Citta Italia in Imus, Cavite; Amici in Bacoor, Cavite; Amalfi in Dasmariñas, Cavite; Portezza in Cabuyao, Laguna; and Maia Alta and Woodberry in Antipolo City.

The lineup of eight completed CrownAsia communities in Mega Manila consists of Vivace in Imus, Cavite; La Mediterranea in Dasmariñas, Cavite; Madeline Place and Classic Square in Bacoor, Cavite; Mía Vita in Antipolo City; Beacon Place in Las Piñas City; and La Brea and Grandwood in Quezon City.

"CrownAsia recently earned a Gold Trusted Brand Award in the Philippine property market from the Reader's Digest 8th annual survey of brand performance," Navarrete concluded, "validating our mission to deliver not merely property projects, but building 'markers of progress' which improves the quality of life of homeowners and contribute to sustained socio-economic growth for Filipinos."

Escaping urban life without leaving the city



THE POND is a big hit among the kids who enjoy feeding the fishes.

FOR ITS HEALING POWER, WATER HAS always been regarded as the "elixir of life"—from the bathhouses in Rome to the holy spring of Zamzam in Mecca, and now up to the Mayfield Park Residences in Pasig City.

It is the soothing sound of water that makes both the modern-day and the ancient Zen practice of meditation and relaxation effective against the stress of urban living.

Such is particularly so in Mayfield Park Residences, an in-city condominium complex whose Zen environment makes a flowing body of water the centerpiece of this sophisticated residential enclave.

Mayfield's pond

Complementing the clubhouse, the pond is cocooned by garden greens and natural stones, making it a virtual rejuvenating nook made more scenic by a suspended wooden bridge. The pond is serenely beautiful during the day and enchanting on clear nights when the koi swim under the reflection of the moon.

"The pond was a welcome surprise when I was contemplating on buying a unit here," says resident Belinda Santos, a young highly successful finance executive who works in a very competitive environment.

"What initially attracted me was the property's attractive price for a 2-bedroom condo and accessibility to my office. Then I saw the overall design concept and the pond by the clubhouse... it was the perfect 'icing-on-the-cake' so to speak and I was convinced, I simply had to have a unit here," she says.

A Zen enthusiast, Belinda believes in the healing power of water. "I read it in a book that ponds in Japanese gardens were highly



MAYFIELD resident Belinda Santos relaxes near the pond by the clubhouse.

spiritual in function," she says, "and it serves as an aid for Zen monks to do meditation."

The so-called "white noise" of the flowing water is like a mantra that cleanses the mind of any negative or nagging thought, making relaxation come easily and naturally.

The koi ponds, the mini water falls and the wooden bridge that signifies the link from an island to another or the transition of one stage of life to another, and the great gardens inside the complex were meticulously included in the development's blueprint, with the sole intention of recreating an authentic Zen refuge.

Sentricon participates in construction convention

THE RECENTLY CONCLUDED CONEX 2006 was a construction convention that gathered together dozens of diverse companies and hundreds of their product lines under one roof. The four-day exhibit was organized by the United Architects of the Philippines and was held at the World Trade Center in Pasay City from last April.

The event coincided with the organization's 32nd anniversary and provided a high-profile venue for the construction and real estate industry to launch new products and services. Among the exhibitors is Sentricon Termite Colony Elimination System, whose authorized operators were on hand to give away advertising and information materials and entice visitors to consider their renowned termite eradication system.

Rotating roster

The rotating roster of Sentricon representatives gave the different operators the chance to make it, and their services, known to convention guests. One such day was allotted, for instance, to Entom Pest Control, Biotech, Topbest Pest Services and Cabuyao Pest Control Services.

Jose Aragon Pabale, general manager of Cabuyao Pest Control Services, explained that as an authorized operator for Sentricon, his job was to enlighten interested parties with information. "Any structure can be infiltrated by termites," Pabale said. "Sentricon is at the UAP's exhibit for exposure. I was invited to join and it's been rewarding because people from different locations in the country inquire about the product, termites and the problems they en-

countered with regard to termite infestations."

He added that Conex was an opportune time to make contact with people from the industry, as well as casual visitors who have yet to hear about their Sentricon and how termites can be effectively eliminated. "We can see the potential of the business to expand. There were many people who were interested in trying out Sentricon. I've been telling them that they are assured of 100 percent elimination of termites in their homes. The Conex convention allowed us to talk to people about our exhibit on termite control."

Promoting Sentricon

Conex 2006 was also a unique convention for Sentricon, as there was teamwork involved with the other pest control companies during the special occasion.

Says Pabale: "The different authorized operators were there to entertain queries from visitors and possibly potential clients. There are three of us for one day, and there will be different operators the day after. We help each other and are united in promoting Sentricon and distributing materials because we believe in its effectiveness because we have tried it and have undergone extensive training to ensure our success. Aside from termites, other pest management issues are sought by guests of the convention." For more information about Sentricon, interested parties can call them at 882-1767, 882-4513 and 840-3874.

The other participating Sentricon authorized operators were Pest Away Corp., Vira Pest, Pestcon Pest Management, Rentokil

Phils., Metropolitan Pest Control, Chemitron Enterprises, NokaOi International, Mr. Bug-master and Landnet.

Termite attacks need not be a recurring problem. Protect your homes and establishments once and for all with the Sentricon Termite Colony Elimination System, the winner of the 2000 US Presidential Green Chemistry Challenge Award. Sentricon is safe and have undergone extensive studies and trials to ensure effectiveness. For further information on this trusted pest extermination product, please visit www.sentricon.com.

ON SALE! AT INTRODUCTORY PRICES, LIMITED QUANTITIES ONLY

P5500 only!

One piece water closet with push-button dual flush. Includes wall mount lavatory with pedestal.

SUNSHINE SQUARE - 312 SHAW BLVD. MANDALUYONG MM. PHILIPPINES
TEL. NO. 718-2675 TO 76
Shop Online: www.finiturecollezione.com

finiture
COLLEZIONE

CONSTRUCTSCOPE

Joint ventures for realty projects

THE URBAN INSTITUTE OF REAL ESTATE WILL CONDUCT A SEMINAR on Joint Venture and Syndication for Real Estate Projects on July 3, from 1:30 to 6 p.m. at the Maximo Function Room, Max's Restaurant, Glorietta 2, Ayala Center, Makati City.

Topics to be taken up include are Concepts and Types of Joint Venture and Project Syndication; Reasons for Joint Ventures; Obligations of Landowner; Undertakings of the Developer; Role of the Syndicator; Financier's Role; Packaging a JV Proposal; Syndication Agreement; Sharing Schemes; Safety Nets for Developer; Safeguards for Landowner; Important provisions in a JV Agreement; and Participation Mortgages.

Lecturer would be Enrico Cruz, who is a civil engineer and has more than three decades of working experience in engineering, construction, real estate development and education. For inquiries, call Urban at 681-0928.

Advanced tools...

From page B2-4

been very essential.

"These softwares have successfully replaced traditional paper and pens for creating design and construction drawings. Today, these softwares allow our firm to simulate reality, giving us the ability to test and visualize in a digital environment," Calma says.

This results in new efficiencies, reduced errors and collaboration across teams and because of these, Calma says they are able to bring their most innovative ideas

to their clients.

"Take for example the building designs we have proposed for the complex. Because of softwares like Autodesk Revit Building, our team is able to come up with complex designs that would have otherwise taken us days or weeks if we were still using other technologies," Calma says.

Much more, through the three-dimensional designs (using the Autodesk Inventor), Calma says the team is able to present virtual models that accurately predict a design's real-world performance, optimize energy consumption, and minimize waste in the manufacturing lifecycle.

"As a result, we also increased client satisfaction since we have improved the way we communicate with them. Through these softwares they can now easily visualize our design proposals. I believe having these technologies at our disposal enable us to compete more effectively," he says.



THE BRIDGE that Calma's team drew up will link the complex to the rest of the city.

CEMENT TO CEMENT WATERPROOFING

APPLY RAIN OR SHINE

SUPER THOROSEAL WATERPROOF COATING

• NON-TOXIC
• CEMENT-BASED
• MANDALAY GAMUTY
Just ADD 1.5 liters of water

BRUSH, TROWEL OR ROULETTE

MAKING TAGAS WATANG TUKLAP NO BACK JOBS!

STOPS LEAKS UP TO 1,500 p.s.i. in 3 minutes

Any questions on waterproofing? Call Engr. Lunas at Tel. Nos. 843-6011 to 15 or Cellphone No. 0920-910-ANAY (2629)

Jardine Distribution, Inc.

Belinda is just so happy that it is something she can look forward to every day. "The hum of the flowing water never fails to give off a calming effect on me. It's best when I'm out here reading a favorite novel, reviewing balance sheets or just sipping coffee to start a lazy weekend right," she confesses, citing it as her perfect antidote to a stressful day at work, and the ideal complement to her very modern condo unit nearby.

Refuge in the city

Ironically, this haven is in the middle of the city, just a few minutes away from Ortigas Center, Libis Commercial Complex and Araneta Center in Cubao.

Located beside Makro in Cainta, Mayfield Park Residences is near to everything a resident needs and probably offers the last refuge from city life without having to leave the city.

For more info visit www.dmcilhomes.com or call 888-3333.

100% WATERPROOF Flexseal Elastomeric Paint

NO.1
Elastomeric Paint in the Philippines
Available in 27 colors

2005 National Shopper's Choice Award
CAMPBRIDGE Waterproofing Systems, Inc.
TEL NOS. 252-05-31 (connecting all departments)
Available through dealers nationwide

Aqua Guard® Elastomeric Waterproofing Paint

Premium Elastomeric Paint



Now available at home depot
ORTIGAS & ALABANG
Outstanding Flexibility & Elongation!
From the makers of UNIVERSAL PAINT
H-Chem Ind. Inc. (632) 646-8773 www.hchem.com.ph

UNEQUALLED PERFORMANCE macnell architectural paints



ACRE COAT
Coats like no other, for that 100% waterproof finish. The perfect blend of strength and aesthetics

ACRYL MEL
Provides excellent hiding power and easy brushing.

ACRE CAST
Specially formulated to provide ultimate surface protection. Washable texture.

MACNELL AQUASEAL
A new generation of waterproofing technology that provides protection from destructive effects of water seepage.

ACRE LAX
Combines the advantage of acrylic latex and emulsion latex.

Eliminates Concrete Seepage 100% Waterproof
Manufactured by MAYON INDUSTRIAL CORP.
51 JOY CORNER HARMONY STS. GRACE VILLAGE, BALINTAWAK, QUEZON CITY, METRO MANILA
TELS 241-3353 • 354-5731 • 384-4733
241-3158 • 364-7135 • 364-6345

B2-4

PROPERTY

Advanced tools to match imaginations of architects, designers

By Charles E. Buban

WHEN THE MANAGEMENT of the Cultural Center of the Philippines recently held a public competition to come up with a design that will transform this government property into a symbol of Philippine heritage and arts as well as a thriving commercial hub, Lor Calma Design Associates and its partner IP Santos and Associates came up with a very interesting concept.

"The competition was a welcome challenge for us considering CCP's historical and cultural significance. It also gave us a chance to communicate our idea on how to transform this 57.8-hectare complex into something

that we could feel proud of," says L.C.-DA architect and interior designer Eduardo Calma.

But before drawing up the entry, Calma's team identified two things that must be addressed in their upcoming design: the need to link the complex to the rest of the city and pedestrians coming from the eastern side of Roxas Boulevard and the absence of a dominant structure that would unify all the other structures within the complex.

Gateway to the complex

"For the first challenge, we needed a bridge that can serve as a gateway to the complex. This bridge will lead to a sculptured garden of varying ground

levels and to the proposed visitor's information center," Calma says.

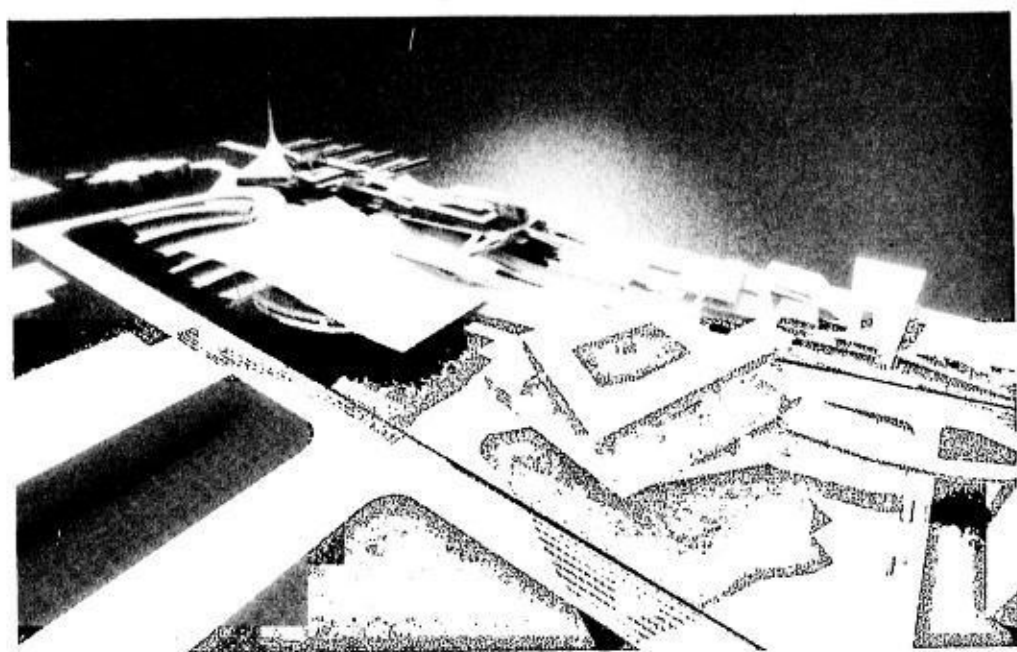
From here Calma's team proposed several elevated pedestrian bridges and multilevel ramps leading to other landmarks like the Artist's Center, Performing Arts Center and a 60-meter lighthouse at the western tip of the promenade.

"The result will be an interconnected, highly walkable complex ground that opens up a lot of spaces for holding exhibits and other cultural presentations," Calma explains.

Essential

In preparing the design entry, Calma says Autodesk softwares have

ADVANCED/B2-4



COMPLEX structures that filled the proposed design.

Incredible living by the bay

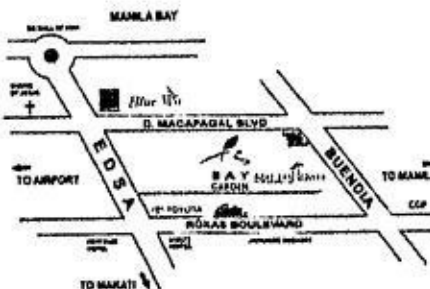
MACTAN TOWER
Come home to the bay

Being a mover and a shaker can be a very draining experience, especially in the frenetic pace of Makati. Getting boxed in by all the big decisions can take its toll on you, especially when you are unable to reward yourself for all the hard work that you put in. An entire day can leave you too drained and burnt out to even reap the rewards of your success.

At Mactan Tower, coming home is a reward in itself. Soak in the incredible sunset and the sea breeze at the shore as you relish the day's end, or stretch your legs with an invigorating bike ride around the bay. Or spend valuable moments with family and friends and recharge yourself at the exciting establishments around the area, such as the Mall of Asia, Blue Wave and Malate Circle. Although it may seem like a world away, Mactan Tower is a mere half an hour's drive from the hustle and bustle of your Makati office.

Spectacular living is just within your reach at Mactan Tower, with new and incredibly easy payment terms and affordable deals. Experience the bayside lifestyle and check out our available units now. Call 551 0888 to see what's waiting for you by the bay.

MACTAN TOWER
at



For announcement purposes only.

E-mail: super@inquirer.com.ph

Text us your feedback: inquirer sup name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Editor Pam Pastor
Creative Director Tim Yap

pop culture • entertainment • recreation



Super! goes gaga over the World Cup, and crazy at the 59th Cannes Film Festival

Ruffa, Richard & Raymond in Istanbul, Turkey page 11

Roaming

Produced by TIM YAP
Photography: RICHARD GUTIERREZ
Cover star: RAYMOND GUTIERREZ in BENCH
Shot on location at BEBEK HOTEL, Istanbul, Turkey

Underwear Fever

FOR A B-SPORTS CRAZY nation like ours (meaning Basketball, Billiards, Boxing, Ballroom Dancing, Badminton and Bowling), it's so refreshing indeed to know that like the rest of humanity, the whole country is now intently glued to their TV sets in the evenings and early mornings watching the 2006 FIFA World Cup telecast from Germany.

With action on the football pitch reaching a feverish high as the second round starts this week, establishments showing the games live have experienced a fiesta-like atmosphere as well as business booming since the extravaganza started. Places like Fiamma, National Sports Grill, Absinth, Heckle and Jeckle, Handlebar, Mezze and many others have hordes of football fans (thank God minus the hooligans) rooting for their idols. So far, most of those we've seen are fans of perennial football powers Brazil, England, Italy, Argentina, Spain, France and host nation Germany. Men and women wearing football jerseys cheer and jeer as they eat their midnight snack while gulping down their favorite beer or sipping some wine.

While sports fans eagerly await this year's World Cup champion, the whole country won't mind feeling under the weather as it waits with baited breath for this year's Super Hot edition of the Bench Fever Underwear and Denim Show happening on Friday, June 30 at the Araneta Coliseum. Temperatures and curtains will rise at 7 p.m. Special guests at the disco inspired event will be '70s-'80s recording giants Sister Sledge and The Village People. Both groups have had several chart topping dance tracks and their mere presence elicited ooohs and aaahs at the iconic Studio 54 in New York, the world's most famous and notorious disco. Tickets to this once every two years only show are getting rarer than the Philippine Eagle, so if you want to score some free tickets, start running to the nearest Bench store and join their ongoing promotions. The good news though is that you need not be in your undies to get the tickets. And don't forget your Earth, Wind and Fire outfits, Donna Summer lyrics and John Travolta moves. Mirror balls are welcome too. So all together now, We are family... In the Navy... He's the greatest dancer, YM-CA!

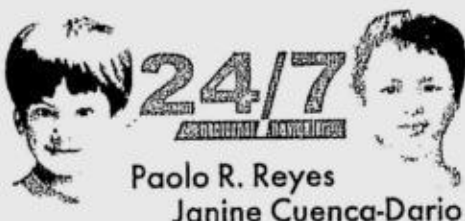
Other Super! 24/7 events:

June 24, Saturday

Kjwan at 6Underground; Pinikpikan at 70s Bistro; Urban Groove: R&B Night at Citrus; Salsa Night at Ricco-Renzo Café; DJ Martin Pulgar at Embassy Club; Campustion Night at Mag:net Café; Pump Saturdays at Jill's; DJ Badboy Jeff at Temple; Soundsgood at Embassy Cuisine; DJ Bam del Valle at Government; DJs Bliss & Shorty at Prince of Jaipur; Massive Saturdays at Bed; Joint band at Off the Grill; Classified at Dish; Flintstones at Merk's; Nina at the Music Museum

June 25, Sunday

Palette's Eye art exhibit at UP Jorge B. Vargas Museum; Champagne Lunch at



Paolo R. Reyes
Janine Cuenca-Dario

Paseo Uno (Mandarin Oriental); Champagne Brunch at Spiral (Hotel Phil. Plaza); Acoustic Night at Phi Bar, Cascades at the Manila Hotel

June 26, Monday

Sitti: Bossa Night at Stonehouse; Salsa Night w/ Salsa Filipinas at Mezze; Ethan band at Temple; I Don't Like Mondays! w/ DJ Ro at Gweilos Makati; Silk & Steel at Merk's; Teresa Avila at The Tivoli; Follies de Mwah at Club Mwah

June 27, Tuesday

Cuisine Royale with House DJ Manolet Dario at Embassy Cuisine; Sitti at Tavern on the Square, Greenbelt; Kickback Tuesdays at Manila DJ Club; Juicy Nylife at Citrus; Guarana at Café Havana Greenbelt; Acoustic Night at Temple; Engelbert Humperdinck at Araneta Coliseum

June 28, Wednesday

Retro DJ Boyet Almazan at Strumm's; DJ Steve Mills at Absinth; DJ Papi Santos at Mezze; DJs Karl Ty & Cao Ocampo at Embassy Cuisine; Punksouljah at Manila DJ Club; Birthday Bash at Citrus; DJs Mars Miranda & Johnnyverse at Embassy Club; DJ Joffy Cruz at Gweilos Makati; DJ Crash at Temple; DJ Brit at Government; Double Happiness at Prince of Jaipur; Jazz Night at Mag:net Café; Julia Duncan at Merk's

June 29, Thursday

Coup with House DJ Manolet Dario at Fiamma, Reggae Night at 6Underground; BBC's SweetSuiteSoul w/ DJ Mike Constantino at Sake Lab; GottaHaveHouse! With DJs Mark Jentes and Wendell Garcia at Capone's; SPIT at Mag:net Café; G Lounge at Mezze; Latina Thursday at Prince of Jaipur; Fluxx: Whatever Thursdays at Manila DJ Club; Supahstar DJ Thursdaze at Bed; DJ Badboy Jeff at Temple, Nuvo Soul with Elian Habayeb at Nuvo

June 30, Friday

Bench Fever Underwear and Denim Show feat. Sister Sledge and Village People at the Araneta Coliseum; 6UG Album Launch at 6Underground; Decadance w/ Boyet Almazan at Jill's; Sitti: Bossa Night at Stonehouse; DJs Karl Ty & GP Reyes at Citrus; DJ Owens Sun at Embassy Club; HouseBeats at Mati; MyHOUSE at M Café; DJ Marie Garcia at Embassy Cuisine; DJ Brit at Government; Jive Fridays at Temple; The Jerks at 70s Bistro; Route 70 & Dawn at Merk's; DJs Scratchmark & Shorty at Prince of Jaipur; Nina at the Music Museum

Schedules may change without prior notice. For more information and a complete listing of events, text 24/7 through your mobile phone and send to 2949 (Globe) and 209 (Smart). Log on to mag24-7.com or pick up your free copy of 24/7 NOCTURNAL NAVIGATOR at bars and restaurants around the city. Submit your schedules before Wednesday to events@mag24-7.com and mag24_7@yahoo.com.

are you ready for the
UPCAT?

increase your chances of passing... join the

MSA Entrance Tests Review

for UP, ATENEO, De La SALLE, UST and other top universities

MSA

Register now!!!

315 Katipunan Avenue, Loyola Heights, Quezon City
G/F Prince David Condo, Katipunan Ave., Loyola Hs.

925-7544 ♦ 929-9145

435-6062 ♦ 925-4602

SM Fairview
SM Mall Novelties
Quezon City
935-0011
935-0012

Makati
101 EDSA cor. Delta Road,
Lungsod ng Makati
815-1307
813-0943

Alabang
G/F South Center Tower,
Madruga Business Park
850-6550
850-6551

Cainta
Francis St.,
Vista Verde
Imelda Avenue
646-8243

Antipolo
24 Iwan Street,
Filinvest Homes East
Marcos Highway
646-8245

Cebu
Riverview Complex
49-A Maximal Ave.
(032) 255-2191
255-2193

Bayanihan spirit comes alive with



Mobile technology has truly, deeply changed Pinoy life today. More than the freedom of communication that it allows us to have with our loved ones, it now also empowers us to be of service to our fellow Filipinos. With a mere text message on our cell phones, we can now send donations to other Pinoy's stricken by poverty or disaster, showing them that people still do care about other people. It is this bayanihan spirit that Globe hopes to encourage and enable through its new GCash GenerosiTxt, a mobile commerce donations facility.

The country's first integrated mobile payments platform, GCash adds mobile donations to its roster of m-commerce transactions, such as GCash Bills Bilis Bayad, for bills payment, GCash2Load for prepaid phone, internet, and online gaming reloading, and GCash Pera2Pamilya for money transfer and remittances. Now, registered GCash users can make mobile donations to a selection of 15 institutions, including prominent government agencies, religious organizations, and non-profit foundations. To give contributions to your selected beneficiary, simply text "DONATE <space> AMT <space> MPIN <space> INSTITUTION CODE" to 2882.

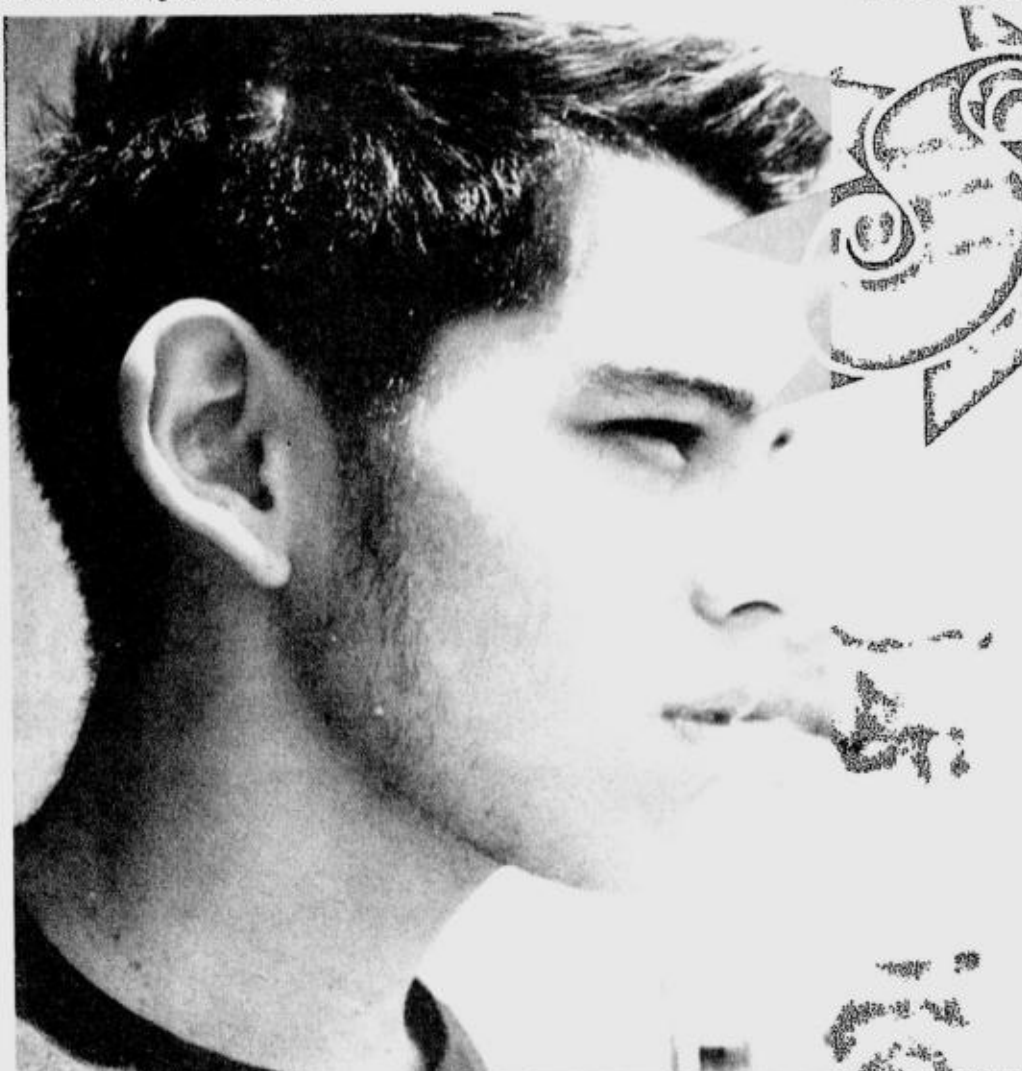
To further support these organizations in collecting more funds for their projects, G-Xchange Inc., a wholly-owned subsidiary of Globe handling GCash, will be contributing P1.00 for each donation made using GCash to the top three agencies who will receive the highest number of text donations via GCash from June to December this year.

GCash has previously implemented mobile fund drives for disaster relief and emergency assistance programs of international organizations such as the Red Cross and Unicef, and it is anticipated that this new service will generate similarly generous contributions from the public.

With the GCash GenerosiTxt donations service comes the realization that Globe has transformed the mobile phone from a mere connectivity device to a powerful tool that truly enriches people's lives through communications.

Call 2882 now for free using any Globe or TM cellphone to get more information on how to donate to your favorite charitable institution or to find out the many ways GCash can improve our lives!

Charitable Institution	Code
Bantay Bata	BANTAYBATA
Caritas Manila	CARITAS
Children's Hour	CHILDRENSHOUR
Couples for Christ	CFC
Jollibee Maaga ang Pasko	JBPASKO
JESUS IS LORD Church	JIL
Kapwa Ko Mahal Ko	KAPWA
Knowledge Channel	KCH
Kythe Inc.	KYTHER
National Red Cross	REDCROSS
Phil Eagle Foundation	PEF
Phil Foundation of Christ's Youth in Action Inc.	CYA
Phil Foundation of Christ's Youth in Action Inc.	RACETO25
Phil Sport's Commission	PSC
Unicef	UNICEF



Super! goes gaga over the World Cup, and crazy at the 59th Cannes Film Festival

Richard & Raymond Gutierrez in Istanbul, Turkey

Roaming

Produced by TIM YAP
Photography: RICHARD GUTIERREZ
Cover star: RAYMOND GUTIERREZ in BENCH
Shot on location at BEBEK HOTEL, Istanbul, Turkey

Underwear Fever

FOR A B-SPORTS CRAZY nation like ours (meaning Basketball, Billiards, Boxing, Ballroom Dancing, Badminton and Bowling), it's so refreshing indeed to know that like the rest of humanity, the whole country is now intently glued to their TV sets in the evenings and early mornings watching the 2006 FIFA World Cup telecast from Germany.

With action on the football pitch reaching a feverish high as the second round starts this week, establishments showing the games live have experienced a fiesta-like atmosphere as well as business booming since the extravaganza started. Places like Fiamma, National Sports Grill, Absinth, Heckle and Jeckle, Handlebar, Mezze and many others have hordes of football fans (thank God minus the hooligans) rooting for their idols. So far, most of those we've seen are fans of perennial football powers Brazil, England, Italy, Argentina, Spain, France and host nation Germany. Men and women wearing football jerseys cheer and jeer as they eat their midnight snack while gulping down their favorite beer or sipping some wine.

While sports fans eagerly await this year's World Cup champion, the whole country won't mind feeling under the weather as it waits with baited breath for this year's Super Hot edition of the Bench Fever Underwear and Denim Show happening on Friday, June 30 at the Araneta Coliseum. Temperatures and curtains will rise at 7 p.m. Special guests at the disco inspired event will be '70s-'80s recording giants Sister Sledge and The Village People. Both groups have had several chart topping dance tracks and their mere presence elicited oohs and aahs at the iconic Studio 54 in New York, the world's most famous and notorious disco. Tickets to this once every two years only show are getting rarer than the Philippine Eagle, so if you want to score some free tickets, start running to the nearest Bench store and join their ongoing promotions. The good news though is that you need not be in your undies to get the tickets. And don't forget your Earth, Wind and Fire outfits, Donna Summer lyrics and John Travolta moves. Mirror balls are welcome too. So all together now, We are family... In the Navy... He's the greatest dancer, YMCAL

Other Super! 24/7 events:

June 24, Saturday

Kjwan at 6Underground; Pinikpikan at 70s Bistro; Urban Groove: R&B Night at Citrus; Salsa Night at Ricco-Renzo Café; DJ Martin Pulgar at Embassy Club; Campusion Night at Mag:net Café; Pump Saturdays at Jill's; DJ Badboy Jeff at Temple; Soundgood at Embassy Cuisine; DJ Bam del Valle at Government; DJs Bliss & Shorty at Prince of Jaipur; Massive Saturdays at Bed; Joint band at Off the Grill; Classified at Dish; Flintstones at Merk's; Nina at the Music Museum

June 25, Sunday

Palette's Eye art exhibit at UP Jorge B. Vargas Museum; Champagne Lunch at



Paolo R. Reyes
Janine Cuenca-Dario

Paseo Uno (Mandarin Oriental); Champagne Brunch at Spiral (Hotel Phil. Plaza); Acoustic Night at Phi Bar, Cascades at the Manila Hotel

June 26, Monday

Sitti: Bossa Night at Stonehouse; Salsa Night w/ Salsa Filipinas at Mezze; Ethan band at Temple; I Don't Like Mondays! w/ DJ Ro at Gweilos Makati; Silk & Steel at Merk's; Teresa Avila at The Tivoli; Follies de Mwah at Club Mwah

June 27, Tuesday

Cuisine Royale with House DJ Manolet Dario at Embassy Cuisine; Sitti at Tavern on the Square, Greenbelt; Kickback Tuesdays at Manila DJ Club; Juicy Nylife at Citrus; Guarana at Café Havana Greenbelt; Acoustic Night at Temple; Engelbert Humperdinck at Araneta Coliseum

June 28, Wednesday

Retro DJ Boyet Almazan at Strumm's; DJ Steve Mills at Absinth; DJ Papi Santos at Mezze; DJs Karl Ty & Cao Ocampo at Embassy Cuisine; Funksouljah at Manila DJ Club; Birthday Bash at Citrus; DJs Mars Miranda & Johnyverse at Embassy Club; DJ Joffy Cruz at Gweilos Makati; DJ Crash at Temple; DJ Brit at Government; Double Happiness at Prince of Jaipur; Jazz Night at Mag:net Café; Julia Duncan at Merk's

June 29, Thursday

Coup with House DJ Manolet Dario at Fiamma, Reggae Night at 6Underground; BBC's SweetSuiteSoul w/ DJ Mike Constantino at Sake Lab; GottaHaveHouse! With DJs Mark Jentes and Wendell Garcia at Capone's; SPIT at Mag:net Café; G Lounge at Mezze; Latina Thursday at Prince of Jaipur; Fluxx: Whatever Thursdays at Manila DJ Club; Supahstar DJ Thursdaze at Bed; DJ Badboy Jeff at Temple, Nuvo Soul with Elian Habayeb at Nuvo

June 30, Friday

Bench Fever Underwear and Denim Show feat. Sister Sledge and Village People at the Araneta Coliseum; 6UG Album Launch at 6Underground; Decadance w/ Boyet Almazan at Jill's; Sitti: Bossa Night at Stonehouse; DJs Karl Ty & GP Reyes at Citrus; DJ Owens Sun at Embassy Club; HouseBeats at Mati; MyHOUSE at M Café; DJ Marie Garcia at Embassy Cuisine; DJ Brit at Government; Jive Fridays at Temple; The Jerks at 70s Bistro; Route 70 & Dawn at Merk's; DJs Scratchmark & Shorty at Prince of Jaipur; Nina at the Music Museum

Schedules may change without prior notice. For more information and a complete listing of events, text 24/7 through your mobile phone and send to 2949 (Globe) and 209 (Smart). Log on to mag24-7.com or pick up your free copy of 24/7 NOCTURNAL NAVIGATOR at bars and restaurants around the city. Submit your schedules before Wednesday to events@mag24-7.com and mag24_7@yahoo.com.

are you ready for the

UPCAT?

increase your chances of passing... join the

MSA Entrance Tests Review

for UP, ATENEO, De La SALLE, UST and other top universities

MSA

Register now!!!

925-7544 ♦ 929-9145

435-6062 ♦ 925-4602

SM Fairview

Makati

Alabang

Calinta

Antipolo

Cebu

935-0011

815-1307

850-6550

646-8243

646-8245

255-2191

935-0012

813-0943

850-6551

255-2193

Bayanihan spirit comes alive with



Mobile technology has truly, deeply changed Pinoy life today. More than the freedom of communication that it allows us to have with our loved ones, it now also empowers us to be of service to our fellow Filipinos. With a mere text message on our cell phones, we can now send donations to other Pinoy's stricken by poverty or disaster, showing them that people still do care about other people. It is this bayanihan spirit that Globe hopes to encourage and enable through its new GCash GenerosITxt, a mobile commerce donations facility.

The country's first integrated mobile payments platform, GCash adds mobile donations to its roster of m-commerce transactions, such as GCash Bills Bih, Bayad, for bills payment, GCash2Load for prepaid phone, internet, and online gaming reloading, and GCash Pera2Pamilya for money transfer and remittance. Now, registered GCash users can make mobile donations to a selection of institutions, including prominent government agencies, religious organizations, and non-profit foundations. To give contributions to your selected beneficiary, simply text "DONATE <space> AMT <space> MPIN <space> INSTITUTION CODE" to 2882.

To further support these organizations in collecting more funds for their projects, G-Exchange Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of Globe handling GCash, will be contributing P1.00 for each donation made using GCash to the top three agencies who will receive the highest number of text donations via GCash from June to December this year.

GCash has previously implemented mobile fund drive for disaster relief and emergency assistance programs of international organizations such as the Red Cross and Unicef, and it is anticipated that this new service will generate similarly generous contributions from the public.

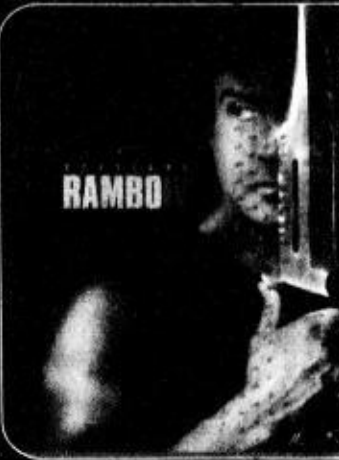
With the GCash GenerosITxt donations service, comes the realization that Globe has transformed the mobile phone from a mere connectivity device to a powerful tool that truly enriches people's lives through communications.

Call 2882 now for free using any Globe or TM cellphone to get more information on how to donate to your favorite charitable institution or to find out the many ways GCash can improve our lives!

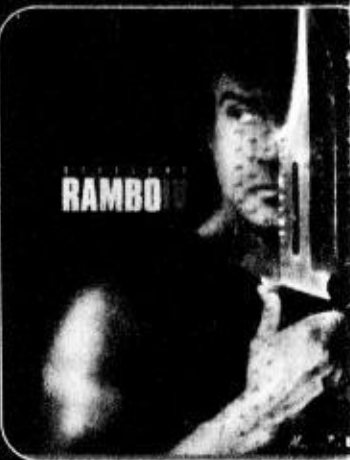
Charitable Institution

Code

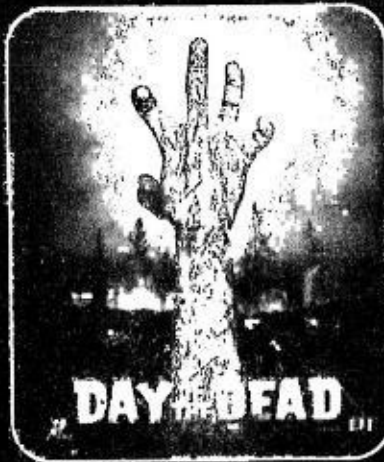
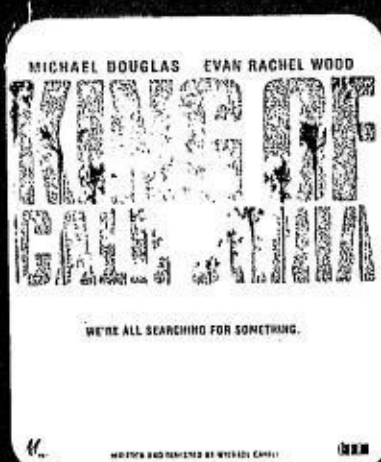
Bantay Bata		BANTAYBATA
Caritas Manila		CARITAS
Children's Hour		CHILDRENSHOUR
Couples for Christ		CFC
Jollibee Maaga ang Pasko		JBPASKO
JESUS IS LORD		JIL
Kapwa Ko Mahal Ko		KAPWA
Knowledge Channel		KCH
Kythe Inc.		KYTHER
National Red Cross		REDCROSS
Phil Eagle Foundation		PEF
Phil Foundation of Christ's Youth in Action Inc.		CYA
Phil Foundation of Christ's Youth in Action Inc.		RACETO25
Phil Sport's Commission		PSC
Unicef		UNICEF



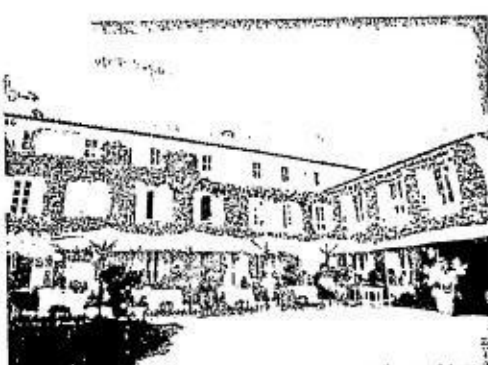
BEST COPY AVAILABLE



BEST COPY AVAILABLE



There was the women (this petite writer included),
the bottles upon bottles of fine French wine, and of
course the plethora of films



CHILLING at a chateau in the south of France is
part of the Mouton Cadet experience at the
Cannes Film Festival.



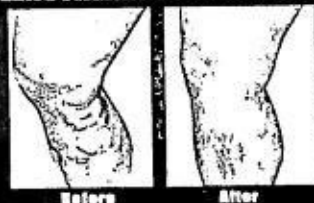
WHERE the stars stayed.



Carried out by experienced and reputable medical professionals.

AUSTRALIA'S PREMIERE VEIN CENTER IS HERE!

Get Varicose/Spider Vein-Free Legs with Lauren International's
SCLEROTHERAPY AND ULTRASOUND GUIDED SCLEROTHERAPY



- Non-Surgical
- No hospitalization
- No Scars
- Relatively Painless

GUARANTEED
QUALITY
RESULTS

Lauren
INTERNATIONAL

LAUREN VEIN
CENTRE

4th Floor, Angelus Plaza Bldg.
104 V.A. Rufino St., Legaspi Village, Makati
Tel. No.: 894-2361; 893-9771
Website: www.laureninternational.net

For appointment, call: Edna - (0916)4554399 Tess - (0919)8452966

A breathtaking discovery...
just 10 minutes away from Alabang.

THE PINES

SAN PEDRO, LAGUNA

THE PINES

0% INTEREST for 5 years*

Call us: 77-22-745 • 420-36-58

*on selected lots only

How to get there:
Just take San Pedro exit and follow the directional signs going to The Pines.

LTS No. 14237-R4A-06-02

Come to our OPEN HOUSE on
June 24 & 25 from 8 AM until 6 PM

FILINVEST
INVEST ON SOLID GROUND



Everio G

With 30GB of memory, you can
record more than 1 hour of DVD-quality video.
20GB of memory is enough to
record 10 hours of video.

Can your camcorder
do this for you?

Capacity	30GB	20GB
Fine (DVD)	10hr. 40min.	7hr. 10min.
Normal (TV)	14hr. 10 min.	9hr. 30 min.
Econo (Internet)	37hr. 30min.	25hr.

Features:

- 2.2 Megapixel CCD
- F1.2 Super Bright Lens
- Event Icons
- 2.7" Wide LCD
- Stick Control
- Direct DVD Burning w/o PC
- 12X PC Transfer Speed

THE WORLD'S
1st
HD
CAMCORDER



Asia's No.1 Bestselling Camcorder.



a) Asia* denotes Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand and Taiwan
b) Based on GfK retail audit reports, cumulative sales in units and value from September 2005 to
March 2006.

Visit our showroom: JVC Business Center, 916 Arnaiz Avenue, Makati City 1223 Tel. Nos.: 889-7711 to 22 www.jvc.com.ph

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

KALA and their love affair with Manila.

KALA: Manila sound is back in the groove

THE LOCAL MUSIC SCENE is in full bloom, with various Pinoy artists producing world-class hits. Local music is now penetrating the mainstream. In the center of this OPM Golden Era comes a resurgence of a sound that is distinctively Pinoy—Manila Sound.

Manila Sound is a genre that was popularized by the Hotdogs in the 70's with the famed hit "Manila." Today a fresh new band named Kala is reviving and re-defining this genre.

Kala is behind the new hit song "Jeepney," which is currently



number one on the charts. Its music video features actress Snooky Serna.

"Manila Sound is the soundtrack of our everyday life in Manila," said Brian who has written and co-written a number of tracks for Kala's debut album, "Manila High."

The album is distributed nationwide by Sony BMG Music Entertainment Philippines Inc.

Rock for a cause

Kala has been performing at various venues in support of Rock Ed Philippines, which promotes nation-building through music. They released an EP last year entitled RockEdition: For the Benefit of the Filipino Youth to promote the United Nation's Millennium Development Goals and support the Global Call to Action Against Poverty. "Music is the purest language that we can use to reach out to individuals and unite them to make a difference in themselves. We must be the change we wish to see in our lives, our country and the world," said Kala's guitarist JP Tanchanco. They tend to urge people or bands not to go to rallies or instigate chaos and partition but instead encourage them to unite, look at the positive side of things and promote peace. And just like other artists who are ambassadors of the Global Call to Action Against Poverty (Bono, U2, Santana and others), they recruit followers to wear a white band and join them in saying "No More Excuses."

Aside from their advocacy, they

have established their distinction in the music scene with their unique sound. Very few bands these days have associated themselves with that kind of identity popularized by the Pinoy artists of the 70's and Kala's move seemed to note that a new genre is paving the way to challenge the "alternative pop" and "pogi-rock" type of sound common these days.

"Sa palagay ko, ang pinoy music listeners and artists ay nagmamatu na... marami nang lumalabas na makabagong tunog ng OPM," said vocalist Mike Grape. "May bases na ngayon ang mga banda at composers. Pinoy artists are claiming their throne."

Rene Garcia, of the Hotdogs, noticed Kala's sound as "carrying the funky groove of the old 70s."

Brian noted that it was Garcia who inspired them to classify their music as 'Manila Sound.'

Influences

"Pinaghalo-halong influences ng mga nyembro ang tunog ng Kala. Manila Sound is something we can all be proud of. It gives OPM pride and personality."

Kala's second single entitled "Manila High" will be launched this July. The music video is a continuation of their debut video for Jeepney.

Other members of Kala are William Gabaldon (bass), and Raymond Daylo (drums). They took the name Kala from kal-abasa—the prime content of a cake-making college project they later called "Kala Cake Project."

HAVE FUN WITH THE ENTIRE FAMILY!

COME JOIN THE FUN-TASY!

Storyland 10th ANNIVERSARY

SM STORYLAND'S 10TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION!

A fun-filled afternoon for the entire family!
Inter-active games - Ten Time Rhythmic Clap, Ten Color Cheer, Talent Show, Storytelling featuring the four playful, witty and lovable mascots and hosts.
Lots and lots of gifts and prizes to be given away!

Schedule:
SM Storyland Fairview - June 24, 2006
Saturday 2:00pm

Come and celebrate with us at Storyland!
The Country's Top and Most Outstanding Indoor Amusement Park!

JOIN STORYLAND'S 10TH ANNIVERSARY FUN-TASY GUESS PROMO!
Just guess the year SM Storyland was born.
2 chances to win!

It's easy to join! Every purchase of a Ride-All-You-Can tag gives you 1 raffle coupon. Fill out the raffle coupon and drop in the designated drop box. The more tags you buy, the bigger your chances of winning!

Promo starts June 15 to December 5, 2006
Per DTI Permit No. 2899 Series of 2006

SM SUPERMALLS
SOUTHMALL • ILOILO • CEBU • MARILAO
FAIRVIEW • BATANGAS • SAN LAZARO

IAAPA 2005 IAAEP Top Family Entertainment Center of the World Award

2005 Most Outstanding Amusement Recreation Service (National Award)

TEN FUN-TASTIC YEARS!

SEE FLIERS FOR MORE DETAILS!

Move farther into a bigger world.
Cathay Pacific moves you to over 90 destinations worldwide.

London 4x daily

New York 2x daily

Paris 2x daily*

Amsterdam daily

Los Angeles 3x daily

Sydney 3x daily

Frankfurt 2x daily*

Vancouver 2x daily

San Francisco daily

HOLLYWOOD

Asia Miles

It's a big world out there so it's nice to know that you can reach it all. Fly the world's best airline with great connections from Hong Kong to over 90 destinations worldwide. Cathay Pacific makes the world smaller and a lot more comfortable.

Now you're really flying.



*On selected days Airline of the Year 2006 awarded by Air Transport World and OAG.

www.cathaypacific.com



CATHAY PACIFIC

Airline of the Year 2006



Beautiful

The sick leaves, the high fever, the frustrations

OUT THE WINDOW

Tals Diaz

and the hopes of the rare Pinoy football fan watching the World Cup

THAT LINE FROM THE FILM "American Beauty" just comes to mind—"sometimes there's so much beauty in the world I feel like I can't take it, like my heart's going to cave in." And that is the closest thing that can describe what I feel every four years, when the world gets together to celebrate "the beautiful game." Ah ... the World Cup! Life is just too sweet, and everyday until

July 9 will be a beautiful day.

Such havoc this beautiful game has wreaked on my system though that everyday, I pretty much resemble a character in the "Night of the Living Dead." It requires superhuman effort to live a normal life when you watch the live games everyday at the witching hour, soused with a lot of San Mig Lights of course, catch a couple of hours of shuteye before waking up and heading to a full day of work, energized on-

BEAUTIFUL/D2

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

JUST SAY "YES"!

No more "usual" subscriptions, because the Philippine Daily Inquirer is here to give you more than the ordinary. Say "NO" to the hassles of going out of your way to get a copy of the Inquirer. An even bigger "NO" to missing your copy because your delivery boy was sick or it was raining too hard, or whatever the excuse. Say "YES" to added value when you subscribe to any of the following plans:

SUBSCRIPTION 1
360 issues (12 mos.)
ONLY P540/month
+22 issues FREE/year
SAVE P396!

SUBSCRIPTION 2
180 issues (6 mos.)
ONLY P540/month
+10 issues FREE/year
SAVE P180!

SUBSCRIPTION 3
90 issues (3 mos.)
ONLY P540/month
+4 issues FREE/year
SAVE P72!

And the biggest "YES" to paying for your subscriptions through cash, MasterCard, or VISA! Go ahead, say "YES", call us and subscribe to the Philippine Daily Inquirer now.

The Philippine Daily Inquirer delivers.
Call 896-6000 to subscribe!

MONEY BACK GUARANTEE:
If you cancel your subscription for any reason, we will promptly refund the unused portion of your payment.

Open to Metro Manila residents only

SUN
CELLULAR
PREPAID

Todo Na Talk!

ONE HOUR
OF SUN-to-SUN CALLS
FOR ONLY P30.

P30
7 days

SUN
SULIT Calls

1 hour of Sun-to-Sun calls!

Now available
in callcards!

SUN
CELLULAR

Here's how to enjoy Sun Sulit Calls:

1. Sun Cellular Prepaid Subscribers may now enjoy one (1) hour of Local Sun-to-Sun calls for only P30 with Sulit Calls. That's P0.50/minute!
 2. Sun Sulit Calls may be purchased via the following:
 - Via Physical Call Cards
 - Via Electronic PINs (E-PINs) purchased in convenience stores like Shell Select, Mini-Stop or 7-Eleven
 - Via SMS: Text VOICE<space>1, then send to 223
 - Via The Mall: visit The Mall>Mall Assistant>My Account>Prepaid>BuyVoice>VOICE 1
- * For purchases via SMS and The Mall, you will need to have at least P30 regular load to convert to Sun Sulit Calls.
- * Upon successful purchase of Sun Sulit Calls, you will receive a text message confirming your purchase with loading instructions and validity.

3. Upon successful loading, you will receive a text message reflecting your Sun-to-Sun call minutes & the corresponding validity.
4. To check your remaining Sun Sulit Call minutes and expiry, dial *221* and press SEND.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS:

- To maximize your Sun Sulit Calls, make sure you do not have 24/7 Call & Text Unlimited and Daylite Call & Text Unlimited.
- If you are still enjoying the pre-loaded service of your newly activated Sun Cellular Prepaid SIM (SIM with 7 days of 24/7 Call & Text Unlimited or 12 days of Daylite Call & Text Unlimited), load your Sun Sulit Calls after the free service expires.

Get more Local Sun-to-Sun minutes when you combine Sun Sulit Calls with any of the following:

<p>1 Hour of Local Sun-to-Sun Calls (valid for 7 days)</p>	+	<p>Unlimited Local Sun-to-Sun Texts and 4 Hours of Local Sun-to-Sun Calls (valid for 30 days)</p>	=	<p>5 Hours of Local Sun-to-Sun Calls & Unlimited Local Sun-to-Sun Texts (valid for 30 days)</p>
<p>1 Hour of Local Sun-to-Sun Calls (valid for 7 days)</p>	+	<p>Unlimited Local Sun-to-Sun Texts & 1 Hour of Local Sun-to-Sun Calls (valid for 7 days)</p>	=	<p>2 Hours of Local Sun-to-Sun Calls & Unlimited Local Sun-to-Sun Texts (valid for 7 days)</p>
<p>1 Hour of Local Sun-to-Sun Calls (valid for 7 days)</p>	+	<p>Unlimited Local Sun-to-Sun Texts (valid for 2 days)</p>	=	<p>1 Hour of Local Sun-to-Sun Calls (valid for 7 days) & Unlimited Local Sun-to-Sun Texts (valid for 2 days)</p>

Maxim-um exposure for Joey Mead

FREE SUPER SEXY CD-ROM INSIDE!

MAXIM



SO HOT WE HAD TO SEAL IT

Joey is Starhub's World Cup co-host



THE WORLD CUP MAY not have a Philippine team but a Filipina made an impact on Singaporean fans by making their World Cup fever rise.

Joey Mead is the cover girl of Maxim Singapore's July issue, with the words "Kick-Off! Joey Mead leads us to the World Cup" emblazoned across the page.

The nine-page spread features Joey as the co-host of StarHub's World Cup coverage in Germany.

Go, Joey! Kick some serious BI



Beautiful

From page D1

ly by adrenaline and boatloads of coffee. I haven't slept or eaten much since the kickoff last June 9, and I'm afraid that my eyebags have permanently taken root in my face. This morning, I actually forgot to brush my hair, much to the amusement of my work mates, who casually pointed out that my *buhagha* hair could double as steel wool. When I attempt to explain my zombie-in-a-deserted-island look to people by saying, "it's the world cup!" more often than not, I'm greeted with blank stares and bemused looks. Tough crowd! Such is the fate of being a football fan in the Philippines; it's akin to talking to Pinoys about cricket or bobsledding or rugby. I may as well be speaking in an ancient Assyrian tongue in our basketball-crazy culture.

So it can get to be a bit frustrating. I'm not talking about my internal clock gone haywire—I can handle the sleepless nights for a month; for me that "pain" is part of the pleasure. The frustrations run much deeper. For one, it's painful on the pocket. Because football is not popular in the Philippines, it's not shown live on regular TV or cable. If you want to watch it at home, you have to pay to have it hooked up. Only a handful of bars in the city show the games live. Most of these bars are either watering holes of expats, or upscale bars that charge a mint for beer. Some of these establishments even ask for a cover charge, in order to compensate for the hefty amount they had to pay Solar Sports in order to have the games shown live in their establishment.

The good thing that comes out of this set up is that you get to hang out with other football-crazy fans from all over the world, Pinoys and expats alike, whose collective excitement charge the atmosphere with this electricity that makes watching the games even more pleasurable. Plus you won't get a furrowed brow when you talk about Argentina's demolition of Serbia-Montenegro the week before. In my experience watching the Brazil-Australia game last weekend at National Sports Grill, it was just incred-

ble to see Pinoys, Aussies, Koreans, Brazilians and Japanese fans in one venue, mesmerized by the game.

This ball.

I guess the most frustrating thing about being a big football fan in the Pinas is getting kicked in the gut with comments like this: "Jeez, what's all the fuss about, it's a bunch of people kicking around a ball for God's sake." Just today, a good friend living in Chicago e-mailed me complaining about the similar absence of football fever in the US. "It's crazy how the Americans have NOT a single ounce of World Cup fever," she writes, "the news tries so hard to make the US team look good to get people interested—but it's not working. My American manager has a sign outside his office—"it's just friggin' soccer." Absolute blasphemy!"

The truth is that, yes, the game is pretty much that simple—it's a bunch of people kicking around a ball towards a goal. Yet it's that very simplicity that is so profound. This simple thing—this ball, can bring the world together. To paraphrase the FIFA commercial, "it drastically changes the world ... it closes the schools, closes the shops, closes the city ... stops a war. This simple ball gives people everywhere something to hope for, gives countries respect where respect is in short supply. And achieves more than the politicians ever could." Imagine that, civil war in the ravaged African country, the Ivory Coast, stopped after three years, and its president declared a truce because they qualified for the World Cup for the first time? How wonderful it is that the world talked about Ghana, when they won against the Czech Republic? Once every four years indeed, a football does the impossible, it can overturn powers, glorify poor nations, and celebrate cultural differences, all because of a shared passion and love of the game.

The International Fan

Another question lobbed to me: "but the Philippines is not playing in the World Cup, so why are you watching?" This isn't an issue, say in Thailand and Malaysia, two countries who don't have teams

competing in the World Cup. They're glued to their TV sets, watching the games. Bangladesh, another World Cup, suffered from electricity was cut off during many people watching.

There is such a thing as a fan. Even if your country will play) in the World Cup or delusional about it, and sharing in the hope of living in this event. Just to see the Angola, they stopped the vaunt kept the game to a go-time and again about the world," well I believe about—even if you've know that somewhere people who are freaking out, and that's more make you smile.

Football in Iloilo

So once again, I ask not popular in the Philippines. The mystery is certainly a ball and an open build a court, and you All you need is to be and to have this enhanced order to score a goal.

I've often wondered in the Philippines aspects of our culture that slump. In football, you unit; every player won the sake of the common a lot of patience; some forever before a goal are no goals scored, when there is a draw. from an "instant gratification" there's the beauty in



Max-pertise
Discover Your Power to Protect

Are you afraid of being scarred for life?

By Dr. Ma. Carmen Nievera
Pediatric Infectious Disease Consultant
Asian Hospital and Medical Center

Few viral infections are more feared than the dreaded Chickenpox. Older people have a tale or two about how this illness has literally scarred them for life. The Varicella-zoster virus actually causes two diseases, Varicella (Chickenpox) and Zoster (Shingles). Chickenpox, the primary infection, usually occurs in childhood and is quite distinctive because of itchy skin rashes which are vesicular or blister-like lesions on the face, scalp, or trunk, though these can spread over the entire body. These lesions are usually 1-4 mm in diameter, superficial and delicate, and contain clear fluid on a reddish base. Besides having between 250-500 itchy blisters of different stages (from reddish raised lesions to blister formation to crusting) on the body, one can have mild fever, dehydration, headache and tiredness, lasting about 5-10 days. The virus then "hides" in the nerve ganglia during acute infection. Thereafter, Zoster or Shingles results when the virus reactivates and returns to infect the skin and produces a unilateral eruption of lesions following an area of nerve distribution (dermatome). Though not well understood, factors which are associated with recurrent disease include aging, decreased immunity, exposure to Varicella while in the mother's womb, and Chickenpox at an early age.

Varicella is highly contagious. Clinical infection will develop in 80-90% of non-immune persons exposed in a household. Secondary cases are usually more severe than the primary cases. The virus is spread by the airborne route and requires direct contact with an infected individual for transmission. It can spread from skin lesions as well as from the respiratory tract by coughing, sneezing, or talking. A person with chickenpox is contagious 1-2 days before the rash appears until all blisters have formed scabs. It will take from 10-21 days after contact with an infected person for Chickenpox to develop.

The clinical course of this illness in healthy children is generally mild. But, they may miss 5-6 days of school when ill. Adults and children with malignancies or immunosuppression may have more severe disease and have a higher rate of complications. These include secondary bacterial infections involving any organ of the body, dehydration, pneumonia, meningitis, encephalitis, hemorrhagic varicella, arthritis, and Reye's syndrome (specially in those on chronic aspirin intake). Complications are higher in persons older than 15 years and infants younger than 1 year of age. Adults account for only 5% of reported cases of Varicella, but account for approximately 35% of mortality. Many people are not aware that before the Varicella vaccine was introduced in the US, that country experienced 11,000 hospitalizations and 100 deaths from chickenpox every year — in other words, one child and one adult died each week from this disease.

Pregnant women are of special concern. The onset of maternal varicella within a few days before or after birth may result in overwhelming infection of the newborn and a fatality rate as high as 30%. Moreover, chickenpox in pregnant women is associated with risk of transmission to the fetus resulting in congenital varicella syndrome. This is characterized by low birth weight, microcephaly, hypoplasia of the limb, skin scarring, and encephalitis, among others.

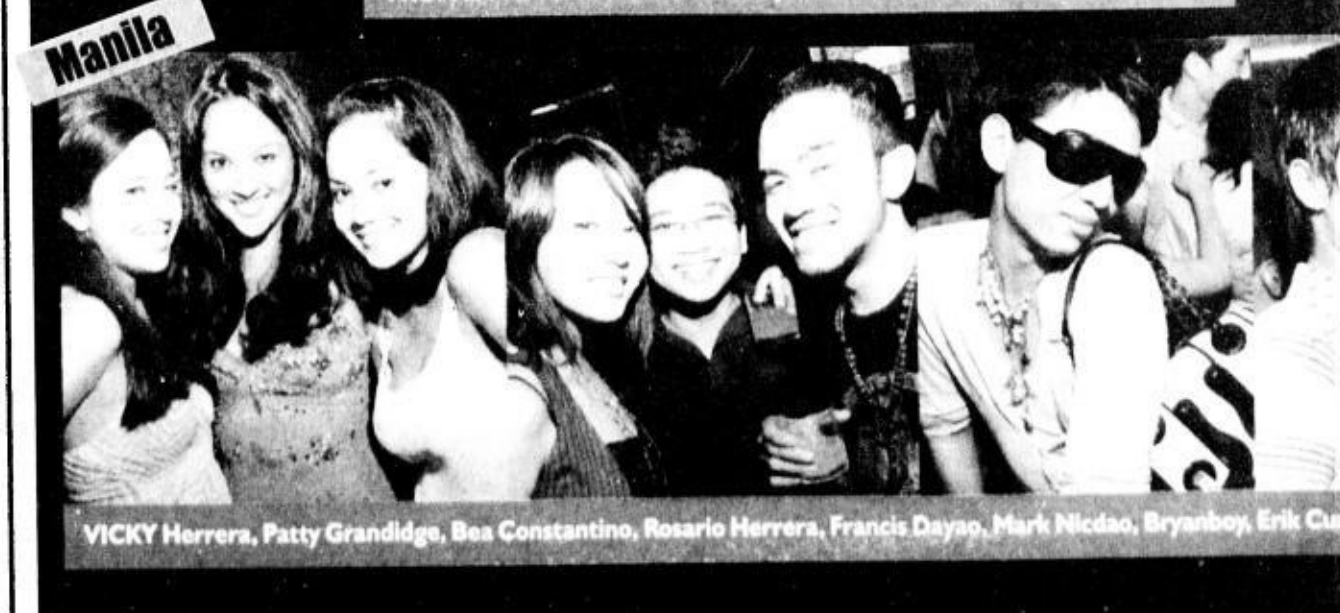
The Varicella Zoster virus is such an infectious agent that general measures are not useful for the prevention of chickenpox in susceptible individuals. Some protection may be achieved by isolation of these patients in rooms with negative air pressure. Nevertheless, all experts agree that **vaccination is the best way to prevent chickenpox.** This protects children and adults from the severe complications and death associated with the disease. Even with uncomplicated cases, lost time from school and work and the cost of medications or treatment can take a significant toll on the family.

Who should be vaccinated? All children between 12-18 months of age should have one dose of chickenpox vaccine, except those who already had the disease. Also, children between 19 months and their 13th birthday who have not had chickenpox should be vaccinated with a single dose. Persons 13 and older who have not had chickenpox should get 2 doses of the vaccine 4-8 weeks apart. Immunity is specially important in persons who have close contact with children or high-risk persons such as teachers, day-care employees, college students, staff of correctional institutions, military personnel, and adults living in households with children. Non-pregnant women of childbearing age and international travelers should also get vaccinated. Because not all persons are eligible to receive this vaccine, it is always best to ask your doctor if it may be given to you.

For protection against vaccine preventable diseases, ask your doctor about the suitable vaccines for every member of the family, depending on their age and lifestyle. GSK Family Vaccines is partnering with the medical community, so more patients can discover their power to protect their loved ones inside and outside the home. Get more health information and advice on family protection through vaccination.



Tru-ly yours, from



CATCH THE FEVER!

In my humble attempt to spread the football fever among Pinoys, here are a few sites and YouTube links to check out:

Official FIFA World Cup site:

fifaworldcup.yahoo.com

For match schedules:

<http://www.soccerphile.com/soccerphile/wc2006/schedule/schedule.html>

A few good videos:

A Simple Ball:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8CcS4XqAt2o&url=>

Scotland didn't make it to the World Cup. Again.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JiKO_L2JuGw&mode=related&search=

Sick Days

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SV9igBdqRH0&mode=related&search=>

Ivory Coast Qualify!

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WjpP_kSUc2s&mode=related&search=

Mundial

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tNcWwmFYq1M&search=world%20cup>

Cup either, yet they are everywhere in the streets, (I saw it myself). In country without a team in the days of darkness during France, because the election a power surge with too the games.

called an "international try isn't playing (or never up, there's nothing crazy appreciating the victories of the other village people-shrinking global village. smile and cheer when red Mexican defense and less draw! People ask me aing a so-called "citizen of nevé this is what it's all ever left the country, you in Angola, there are people, even for but a more than enough reason to

hard-fought—when they finally happen, you just appreciate it so much more. Perhaps we Pinoys could learn so much from this value: That the things truly of worth in this world can't be acquired instantly; you build something truly valuable with discipline, hard work, and a whole lot of patience!

Yet I do think more interest could be fanned with proper funding and promotion of the sport. Ah, there's the rub. There are no leagues where we could train, say, the extremely talented football players in Barotac Nuevo, Iloilo (which is believe it or not, the country's soccer capital as FHM Philippines reports, or more aptly tagged, "Twilight Zone Philippines" where residents barely hop to the basketball beat and where people don't worship Shaq). There are no leagues because there is a lack of funding. To get funding from big corporations, you need to drum up a critical mass of interest to actually make it worth the investment. It's a long, long Möbius Strip of reasons.

Pinoys and the game

I am still hopeful though that Filipinos could learn to love football too. Perhaps all we need is to just pick up a ball, kick it around more and start playing it. Hell, that's how I contracted the fever in the first place, when I played for the girls' team back in Ateneo. The same college friends I've played with and watched the World Cup games in 1994, 1998 and 2002 are still the same feverish females e-mailing me every minute about the games—even if I haven't seen them in years and they're scattered across the globe living their own lives now. Now if the passion for this game can bring my ol' friends and I together again across the oceans, relish old memories and look forward to future World Cups, even just by the virtue of the Internet, just imagine how this sport unites so many people elsewhere in the planet?

One game, one world indeed. Now that is beautiful.

—why the heck is football

opines? only baffling. All you need space. You don't need to don't even need to be tall! st; to think on your feet, ed sense of teamwork in

of the lack of football fever eaks of the negative as continually keeps us in a need to be a cohesive s hard in his position for goal. That goal requires times it takes a long time scored. Sometimes there or there are no winners o football is the furthest ation" sport. Then again, having goals that are so



Natalie, Marques Houston, Milla J and Chris Stokes, and Baby Bash

LA to Manila

in Milan

HERRERA'S TRU YOUTH APPAREL WAS REITLY launched in Los Angeles during the birth bash of one the most influential DJs in the industry—DJ E-man. He is currently the music of Power 108; the most popular hiphop station is talent has taken him far—he's been a performer for artists like Tamia, Krazy Bone of Bone and Harmony, Baby Bash, and is also the only act of Mariah Carey during her concerts. The by invitation party was held in the high-end club in Hollywood where guests include Jerupri, Frankie J, Baby Bash, Natalie, Marques and a whole lot more. It didn't just stop there, ch was continued in Manila during Jon Herthday party in Embassy Superclub. Guests in ulla launch were wowed when DJ Virman, an p hiphop DJ in LA, spun and surprisingly played pm Kylie, Kelly Clarkson and The Cardigans. an check out Tru Youth Apparel at www.truyouth.com



MANILA'S VERY OWN, DJ Mari Miranda



Schelle Pamintuan, David Milan, Hannah Cruz and Janthina Fong

Watch your family & business grow here!



CAPITOL HILLS, QUEZON CITY



Check out the action, and get high on football



Athena house model • 150 sqm. usable floor area

How to get there: From Commonwealth Avenue, turn right at Batasan Road until you reach the Batasan Road Extension. Turn left upon seeing the Petron Gas Station. Go straight until you reach Filhomes II Gate 1. Follow directional signs to Serra Monte Villas.

Sales Consultants and Managers are welcome to apply. E-mail us at hrd@fillinvestland.com or call us at 727-0431 loc. 250.

Open House Today, from 9 AM - 5 PM at Serra Monte Villas Clubhouse, QC



Canon

Delighting You Always



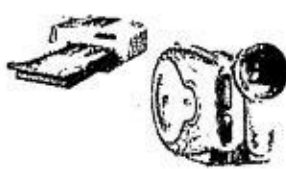
IT'S TRUE
SEE MORE
THAN OTHERS
WITH THE NEW DC40



NEW
DC40

INTRODUCING
THE WORLD'S FIRST
TRUE 4 MEGAPIXEL
DVD CAMCORDER

10x optical zoom • Built-in joystick for quick and simple operation • Easy shooting, editing and sharing functions • World's smallest and slimmest DVD camcorder*



See more vibrancy. See more detail. See more beauty. It's all possible with the compact yet powerful DC40 which has 4 million pixels to capture every single detail of an image. The DC40 delivers true 4 megapixel performance, without resorting to interpolation used by some camcorders to boost their image quality as they have fewer actual pixels. Together with Canon's precision optics and exclusive DIGIC DV imaging processor, the DC40 produces stills and movies that are richer, sharper and more stunning. Even with its wide range of shooting functions, this DVD camcorder is incredibly easy to use. Get ready to enhance your shooting experience in every way with the DC40. Where form and function are perfected.

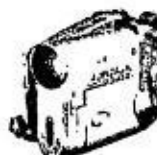


*In its megapixel class as of March 2006

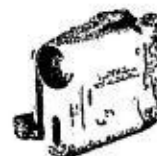
NEW



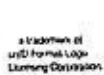
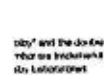
DC100
• 25x optical zoom
• 2.7" LCD
• High resolution 16:9 widescreen mode



DC20
• 2.2 megapixels
• 2.5" LCD
• High resolution 16:9 widescreen mode



DC10
• 1.3 megapixels
• 2.5" LCD
• High resolution 16:9 widescreen mode



FREE

3 DVD-Rs, battery pack and carrying case when you buy a Canon DC10, DC20, DC40, or DC100.

Promo Period: June 10 to July 31, 2006. Per DTI-NCR Permit No.3029 Series of 2006.

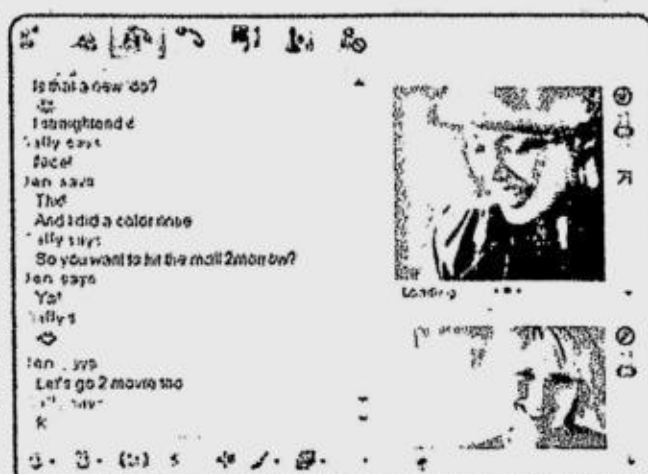
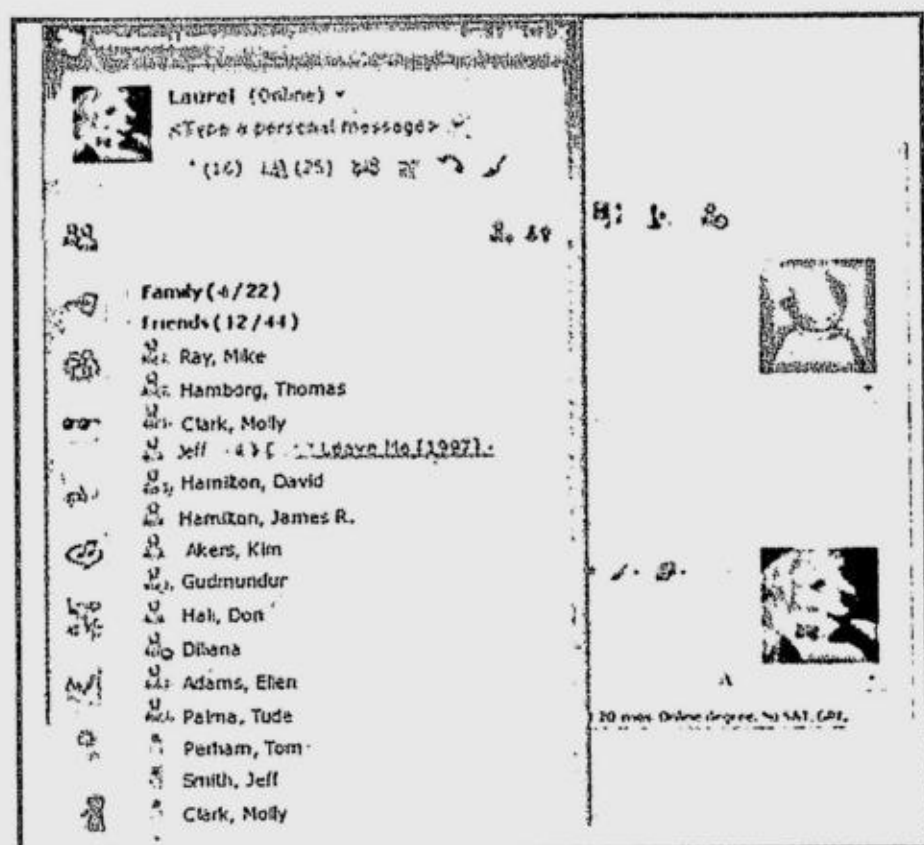
Based on an original warranty issued by Canon Marketing (Philippines), Inc.

Canon Marketing (Philippines), Inc. 2F Marvin Plaza, 2153 Don Chino Rocas Avenue cor. V.A. Rufino St., Makati City
Tels. 884-9000 • Fax: 810-9797 • info@canon.com.ph • www.canon.com.ph

Available at:



BEST COPY AVAILABLE



SUPER SELECTION!

Live in 3, 2, 1...

Fly High With These
Amazing Offers From SMART!

Say hello
to Windows Live
Messenger, the next
generation of MSN
Messenger for the
Super generation

By Pam Pastor

WITH TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPING faster than you can say Bill Gates, companies and consumers are playing a game of catch-up, trying to make sure they are always on top of IT news.

Here is this week's news: Asia, say hello to Windows Live Messenger.

This messenger promises to kick the butt of your old messenger with added features like easy sharing folders and video calling.

"Windows Live is all about giving consumers the tools and services they need to be in control as they stay connected to the people they care about, on top of the information that is important to them, and protected across all of their online activities. The vision is based on putting people at the center of their digital life and creating a seamless experience across their PC, devices, applications and the web," said Alex Stewart, Microsoft's Asia Pacific director for the Windows Live and MSN business.

No kidding

He's not kidding. In its desire to "unify your world, relationships and interests," Windows Live Messenger provides you with tools to enhance your online life. This next generation of the MSN Messenger does not only provide an instant messaging service, it also connects you to the internet—to your e-mail, blog and a search engine with the click of a mouse.

Great news for people in long-distance relationships—Windows Live Messenger includes a free, synchronized audio and video service which allows customers to view and talk to their friends through their PCs. And to make sure conversations are clear—Microsoft released a line of webcams optimized especially for Windows Live Messenger. The first of the cams are the Microsoft LifeCam VX-6000 and Microsoft LifeCam VX-3000.

Sharing made easy

File-sharing is easy—all you have to do is drag and drop to share your files with friends. And now your messenger can act as your little black book too—Windows Live Contacts lets you subscribe to your friends' contacts so you can stay in touch constantly. These contacts are not just accessible through the messenger, you can also use MSN Spaces and Windows Live Mail to access them. More than 25 million customers are already taking advantage of this feature—now that's a lot of people to connect to.

The messenger is integrated with other Windows Live services including Windows Live Search, Windows Live Local, Windows Live Mail and MSN Spaces. This integration allows users to read blogs, view online photos, find directions, get answers to their questions, send e-mails and visit websites while enjoying their Windows Live Messenger experience.

There's also a Forget Me feature, preventing other people from using your account, after you use Windows Live Messenger at an Internet cafe.

It's all part of "bringing your online world together."

And things are only starting.

"The advancements in technology really has created an impact with the way we live our lives. It's great to see a lot of innovations in the way we communicate and stay connected—from the mobile phones to instant messaging. I think Microsoft is doing a great job with Live Messenger because, from what I read on the Internet, Live Messenger will soon allow us to communicate with people who use Yahoo! voices. This is going to make the IM world even bigger," said Mike, a self-confessed IM addict.

And the craziest part? They say this is only the first of more than 20 new Windows Live services they would be launching throughout the year.

Bring it on, Bill.
Visit www.live.com.

SUPERMAN
RETURNS

Opens June 28, 2006

www.supermanreturns-asia.com

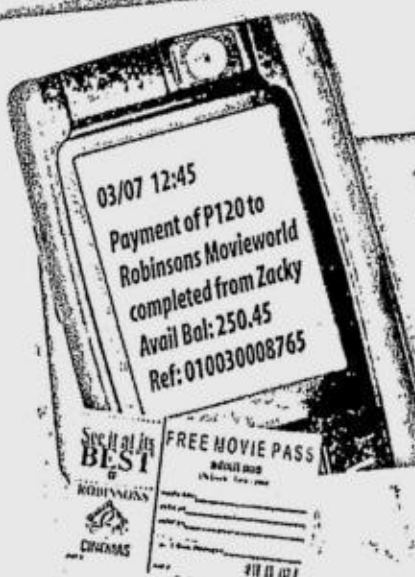
Two great...
biggest return and why...



FREE Superman
Downloads

(Logo, picture message or ringtone)
when you buy any

Load or download
Only one free download per day per mobile number.



Get a Movie Ticket!

Simply use your SMART
Money Mobile Payment.

Text <storecode> space <amount> to 270
Ex. SUPERMAN011

*Complimentary ticket may be used for any movie until
Sept. 30, 2006. One movie ticket per subscriber only.

CINEMAS

Get the SUPERMAN...
Text SUPERMAN to 239

To get the SUPERMAN...
For Polytones. Text PSUPER to 239 Polytones.

Powered by
Information
Gateway

SMART

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3111, Series of 2006.

LEGENDARY PICTURES DC WARNER BROS. PICTURES
SUPERMAN and all related characters and elements are trademarks of and © DC Comics.

For questions, comments, or concerns, you may call the SMART Hotline at 888-1111. *888 using your SMART cellphone; the SMART Corporate Hotline at 888; send a text message to 888 (Standard rate in excess of the FREE TEXT allocation applies); e-mail us at customerservice@smart.com.ph; visit our website at www.smart.com.ph; or visit the SMART Wireless Center nearest you.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Super

POP CULTURE

IS THERE

pop culture . entertainment . recreation

First Academy of Computer Arts
Training of Digital Arts
25 Saville Bldg., 1726 Paseo de Roxa
San Benito Puyall Ave., Mankato, MN
898-2724 up to 261-897-5502
www.firstacademy.net

RUFFA/E2

LOWER BOX TICKETS AVAILABLE
for every same day single except Bench purchase worth £2,500
Only on June 24th 2006 at Bench SM Megamall and
Bench Ayala Galleria. Ask store manager for details.

BENCH FEVER
 THE UNDERWEAR AND DENIM SHOW
 WITH SPECIAL GUESTS VILLAGE PEOPLE AND SISTER SODGE

www.benchmark.com






SHADES OF COOL. Richard Gutierrez in Tom Ford eyewear



COME FLY WITH ME, says Rocky



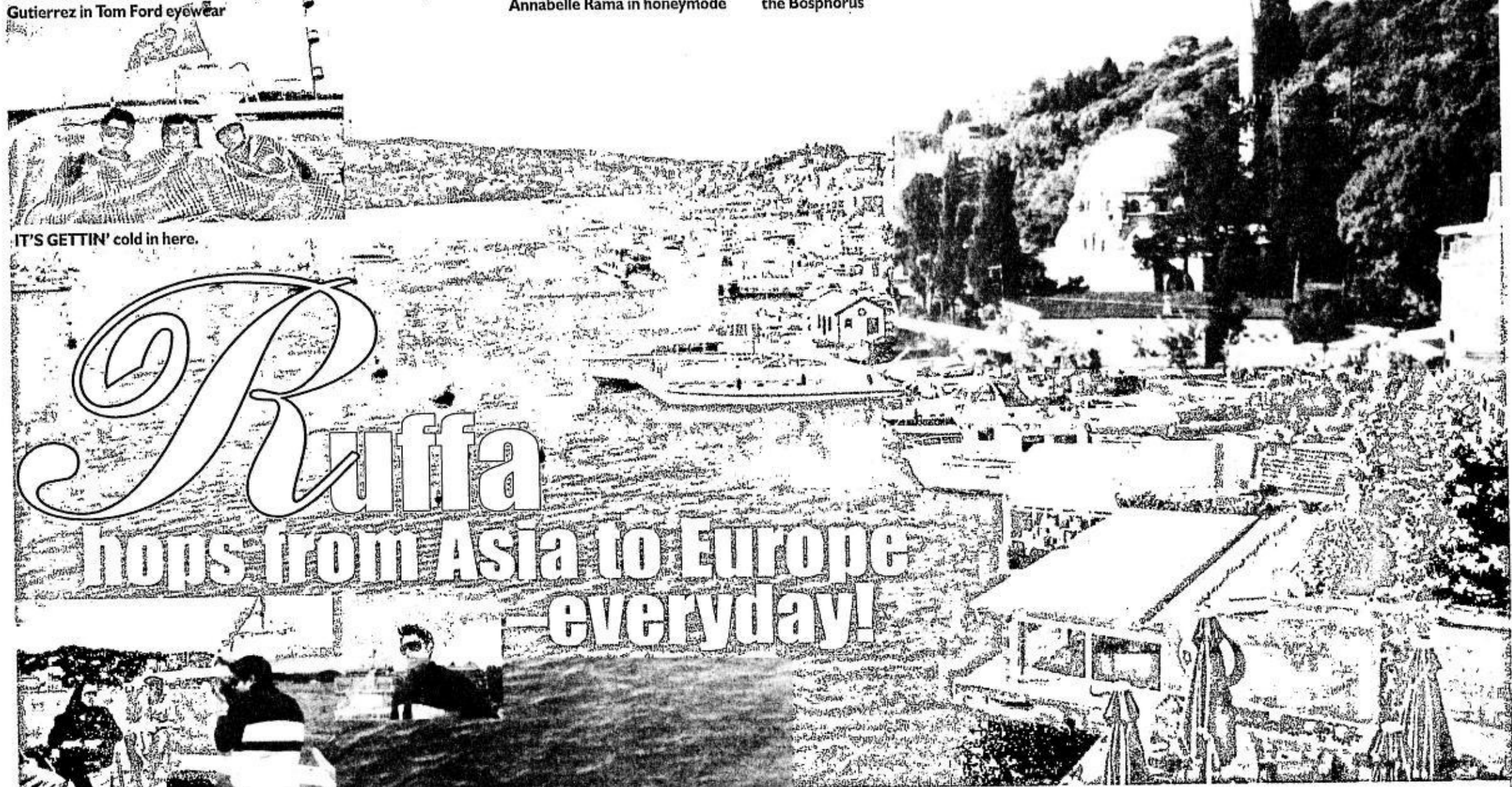
LOVE BOAT. Eddie Gutierrez and Annabelle Rama in honeymoon



R AND R. Ruffa and Richard by the Bosphorus

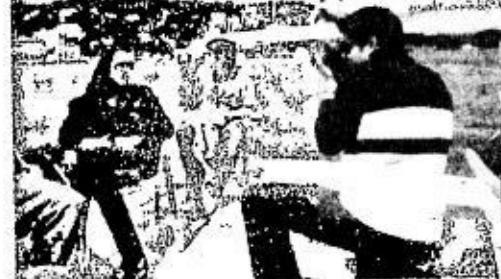


CAPTAIN Barbell takes a break.



IT'S GETTIN' cold in here.

Ruffa hops from Asia to Europe everyday!



SNAPSHOT of a princess



VIEW FROM THE TOP. Chard, as photographed by Mond



Tim Yap

From page E1

should go get my Advil.
My first day in Istanbul was spent at the Bektas house, a mansion in the suburbs where Ruffa maintains her queendom in the presence of her family, household help and pets. It was also the bridal shower for Kesra, Ruffa's sis-in-law who was going to tie the knot that weekend. Ruffa, the consummate hostess kept on calling the twins to rush to her place (we stayed at a boutique hotel in Bebek, near the posh party spots in Istanbul) to catch the performance of the belly dancer she had hired for the party.

One soiree after another, I witnessed, in true pageant form, how Ruffa was able to transform and live up to every role she had to take—wife, mother, sister, daughter, hostess, guest relations officer, friend, etc. Many times she was busier than the party hosts themselves, and in family occasions, Yilmaz's kin seem to have grown so attached to her that they all really go to her—kids and adults alike are drawn to her like girls are to diamonds.

Bling it on!

Speaking of this girl who is fond of diamonds, we went Super! shopping at The Grand Bazaar, where I experienced first hand the haggling skills of Mommy Annabelle. I watched with amazement as her kids point out a particular object they fancied and mommy Annabelle would argue and fight with the vendors until she got the item at the price she wanted. And then they became friends. Who can resist tita Annabelle?

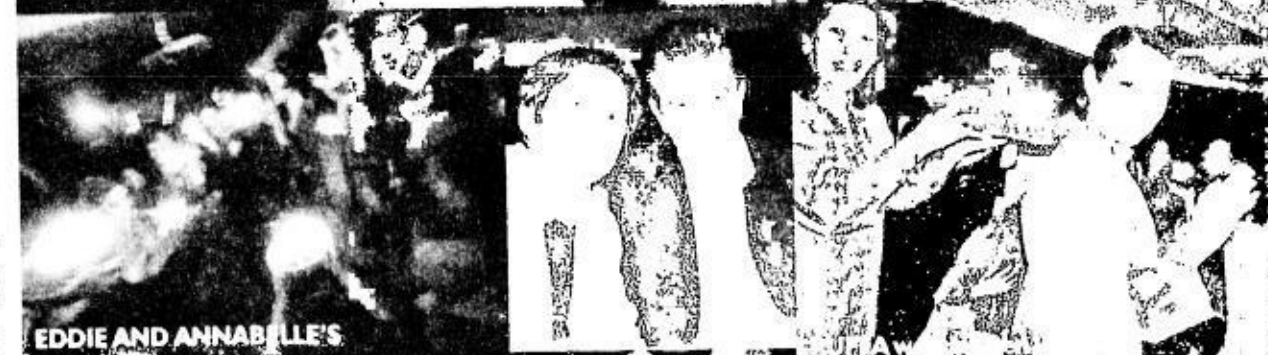
"She just likes to haggle for the sake of haggling," Eddie Gutierrez explained as we observed Annabelle from the next stall. "She's a double dragon," Yilmaz went wide-eyed as he lovingly described his mom-in-law. I'd say even a triple dragon, as even I felt well taken cared of, and safe, under tita Annabelle's wings.

Even in Istanbul, she brought cans and cans of pork n' beans, corned beef and other breakfast de lata to make sure her boys have their favorite foods from good 'ol mom. "My boys are all so big now," she would wax sentimental.

RUFFA/E3



ALL IN the family at the wedding of Kesra to Baris



EDDIE AND ANNABELLE's vast sources of pride



THE OTHER queen in Yilmaz's life, Queenie



AT KESRA'S BRIDAL SHOWER HOSTED BY RUFFA. Held at Yilmaz and Ruffa's residence in Istanbul



SPELL BROTHERHOOD. Richard, Rocky, Richie, Paul, Emmanuel, and Raymond



GUTIERREZ TRIPLETS. Posing at party



SHOWER PARTY. Double dragon



THE FASHION TV security team with us



RUFFA'S little angels, Lorin and Venice

SUPER! GOES TO ISTANBUL



Ruffa hops from Asia...

From page B2

tal in her Visayan-twanged Tagalog, smiling from ear to ear after pinching Elvis' cheek, or after giving Richard a tight embrace.

"Mommy, look at these diamonds!" Ruffa pointed to a super bling piece that can fully cover one's neck. "Marami na gavyo nyan!" Annabelle blurted out as she headed to the next stall. The next few days would take us all over Istanbul, bonding over traffic (our situation is much better than theirs, would you believe?) and bodyguards.

So real

A cruise along the Bosphorus sea took us from Asia to Europe and back. Istanbul is unique in such a way that half of it is located in Asia, and the other half, Europe. Ruffa crosses this line everyday, part of her daily chauffeur-driven ride around town.

Being with Ruffa (who now speaks fluent Turkish, by the way), Yilmaz and the whole Gutierrez brood away from the glare of the Manila spotlight, I noticed first hand how this showbiz family is actually so grounded and so real. With them, what you see is what you get.

The Gutierrez boys form one big, happy barkada—hanging out with them makes you feel like you're hanging out with your high school barkada. Elvis and Rocky are experts at impersonation, Raymond and Richie Paul love their music while Richard has his fixation for cars and Ducati bikes and has a great eye for photography. (Check out his photos within this Super! spread.)

Seeing dad Eddie's quiet demeanor can remind you of your own cool dad. Being with Annabelle makes you feel like you're with your own quirky mom who smothers you with her love.

Being with Yilmaz, you sense a man truly in love with his wife and happy with his kids, and being with Ruffa... it's like being with your sister, if your sister was a princess.

LOWER BOX TICKETS AVAILABLE
for every same day single seeing Bench purchase worth P2,500.
Only on June 24, 2006 at Bench SM Megamall and Bench Ayala Glorietta. Ask store manager for details.

BENCH FEVER
THE UNDERWEAR AND DENIM SHOW
WITH SPECIAL GUESTS VILLAGE PEOPLE AND SISTER SLEDGE

TEMPERATURES RISE on JUNE 30, 2006, 7PM at the ARANETA COLISEUM

www.benchlin.com



For 111166 R printed on 100% recycled paper

PARTY FOR A CAUSE



SCENES FROM PLAYBOY MANSION PARTY AT INDOCHINE RESTAURANT

When playing becomes serious fun

By Katrina A. Holigores

I DON'T BELIEVE THAT any straight girl (who doesn't have double D chest proportions) would be excited to attend an event that has "Playboy Mansion" as a theme. But, I kept trying to convince myself this was for work.

Before anyone even bothers to speculate if I possess aforementioned mammalian attributes let me clarify that work meant being head of content for Fashion TV Philippines and that we were invited to cover an event. Indochine Restaurant, located on Orchard Road in Singapore was about to stage a charity dinner plus fashion show with designer Farah Angsana and all proceeds were going to the Action for Aids Charity. Two of my colleagues and I set off for the land of the "las" with equipment and no real expectations in tow. I have always wondered what kind of gimmicks one was willing to throw or get into in the name of "charity." I guess when times get hard, getting charity is even harder.

Efficient energy

Singapore was as expected bustling with the most efficient energy known to man. Everything there just works and everyone just seems to be so reliable and honest. It seemed, with everything so streamlined and well, disciplined, that an event sounding in nature supporting a rather controversial subject matter could be pulled off with aplomb. Half-asleep and fueled by pure adrenaline (thanks to chocolate), we set off for the venue to give a visual ocular.

Beautiful models

Christina Mitropoulou, our FTV Singapore sister, had already been given a heads up of what to do when met with three visitors from the Philippines—feed them and feed them fast! Over roast duck with rice at a local kopitiam, we discussed the schedule and parameters for the evening ahead. Again looking over what was to be expected in the name of charity, beautiful models in beautiful gowns, high society guests, celebrities, a five-course dinner, and er, an under-dressed code. I felt rather uncomfortable and I couldn't figure out why. Maybe I was still father old-fashioned in this modern day. Although I thought charities would be more subdued "with clothes" affairs, I was prepared to stay professional and cover the event regardless

of my impressions and expectations.

What started out as work though turned out to be a lot quite a fun experience. First of all, the venue itself was very unique in its appearance, formal-looking settings, chandeliers in the middle of very long tables gave it an almost kitschy feel, I mean, the whole club was beginning to imbibe a rather S&M feel. This was coupled by the red carpet walk where guests either clad in Farah Angsana's wares or ... underwear wares were welcomed by half-naked men in masks. I guess for

the guests (and the FTV Crew) the whole setting was taken in a tongue-in-cheek manner, even some of the more scantily clad of the guests were not taking themselves and their body parts too seriously. From pre-event, during dinner, through the fashion show and even at the after party it became more and more evident that everyone involved was having a gleefully good time. Playmates, playboys and play wannabes were scattered all over the club and restaurant, but there was a strict "no photo" clause on many of the guests that was (maybe cause it

was Singapore) readily and seriously abided. (Brangelina and baby would have been better off in Indochine rather than Namibia).

Highly amusing

Although the overall scene was highly amusing, what was most enjoyable for me was bumping into an old friend, Mike Wiluan (who I had not seen in over 10 years) and making new friends amidst the noise and the nakedness. Some of the guests got pretty raunchy towards the end of the night but FTV kept its promise and we kept ours cam-

eras off, although our eyes were pretty much popping out of our heads. Champagne flowed, dancing was all night and several awards were given out that night, from a \$3,000 gown from Farah to several Valentino leather bags. People took their partying very seriously and a new definition of the word "Playmate" emerged that very night. But still, I thought I would be put off by all the debauchery around me and was pleasantly surprised that despite still having all my clothes on I was still very much welcomed into the fray.

Rumor has it that the event raised double of what was estimated for Action for Aids and the colorful condom giveaways disappeared way before the clothes on the guests did.

I don't think I could have planned out something more successful and I humbly whip my rather self-righteous non-bunny tailed behind into submission. Whatever works for charitable causes works for me. In these unpredictable times, charity has to get creative. So maybe next time I won't scoff at the idea of being a Playmate for a good cause.

LOWER BOX TICKETS AVAILABLE
for every same day before 10:00am at Bench SM Megamall and
Bench Ayala Alabeta. Ask store manager for details.
Only on June 24, 2006 at Bench SM Megamall and
Bench Ayala Alabeta. Ask store manager for details.

BENCH FEVER
THE UNDERWEAR AND DENIM SHOW
WITH SPECIAL GUESTS VILLAGE PEOPLE AND SISTER SLEDGE

TEMPERATURES RISE ON JUNE 30, 2006, 7PM at THE GRANETA COLISEUM

www.benchtm.com

Philippine Airlines
s.ablizz

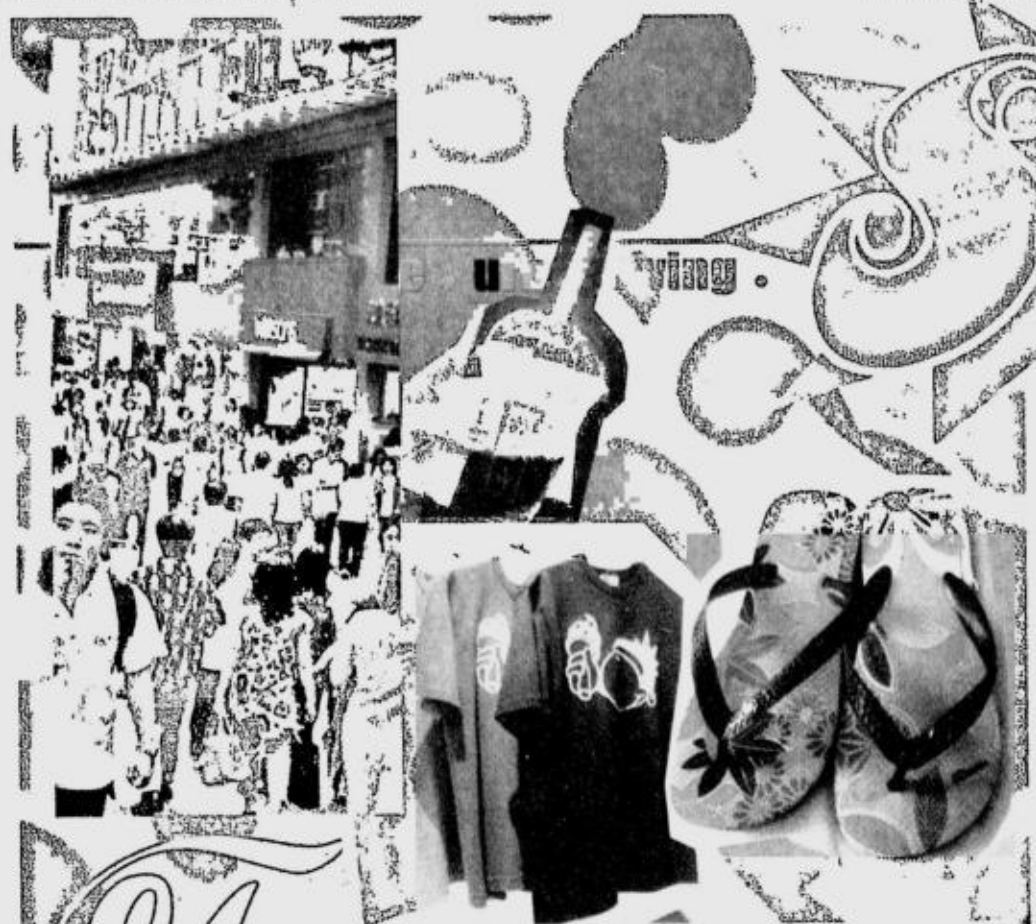
the perfect
PAIR



b/ low jeans
by
bench/

Overhauled

www.benchtm.com



Funky sneakers and designer tea parties in the land of retail therapy

This is a Hong Kong shopping adventure without a lot of shopping

Text and photos by Pam Pastor

HONG KONG IS THE cure for the jaded shopper's soul. Just when you think you know its ins and outs, the land of retail therapy reaches into its vault and hurls surprises along your way.

This I discovered during a recent big family trip to Hong Kong, courtesy of my generous grandfather. There were 17 of us—which is pretty crazy. While they invaded Disneyland, the Hong Kong Tourism Board swept me away on the Airport Express train and introduced me

FUNKY/F2

CTRC CREATIVE TRAINING AND REVIEW CENTER
Humanism Through Creativity
725-7948 / 0917-8197462

INTERIOR DESIGN BOARD REVIEW 2006

CLASSES START JULY 10 to SEPT. 2

REGISTRATION ON GOING!
MONDAY TO FRIDAY 3 TO 5 P.M.

CTRC SECRETARIAT
FIRST MIDLAND CONDOMINIUM,
108 Gamboa St., Legaspi Village, Makati City
Phones : 807-3642 / 7262428
Cell Nos.: 0916-983-7599 / 0917-847-8641



Health Today, Wealth Tomorrow

FREE ENTRANCE

June 24, 2006

Saturday

All-day health exhibit:

10:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Fun & information:

1:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

5th Level, Mega Trade Hall 3,

SM Megamall Ortigas Center,

Mandaluyong City

HOST: ANGEL JACOB

*Topics may change without prior notice

Bring a copy of HealthToday June 2006 issue to avail of various health services for **FREE**: BP monitoring, BMI measurement, bone scanning and many more!

Information you'll gain:

- Stay healthy the natural way
- Smart ways to avoid heart disease
- Healthy families
- Top fitness tips & trends
- Get fit (fitness demo)
- Raising smart kids (nurturing giftedness in your child)

Raffle prizes and gifts to be given away!

Famili Vaccines

Promil Pro-School

Promil Kid

mesVita pro Heart

Alber-Mare

MULTIVITAMINS ENERVON

www.healthyoptions.com.ph



Eat good, live bad longer. Whatever lifestyle you choose, it's always a good choice to be healthy with our pure, natural and organic products.

healthy Options®
better choices | better life



Funky sneakers and designer tea parties in the land of retail therapy

From page F1

to a magical world where funky sneakers float by on conveyor belts under see-through floors, where rich ladies go for designer tea parties, where queues of people ready to splurge on fashion go around the block and where tour guides have an affinity for all things yellow.

And I thought I knew shopping like I know the colors of my nail polish collection.

But my shopping adventure actually started the day before Denny, my tour guide, fetched me from my hotel. While the kids went to Toys R Us and the adults returned to their rooms to rest, I took the bus to Tung Chung and then a long MTR ride which had me switching trains. I had a mission—to pick up two pairs of Japanese-designed Chiso Havaianas that Pedder Red was holding for me. That trip was almost uneventful—except that on the way back, I got on the wrong train because I didn't realize that Chai Wan and Wan Chai were two different places. That was fun.

The next day was even more fun—rife with eye candy, surprises, good food, train rides, long walks and even suspense.

The Big Brands

Our first few stops were Meccas of luxury shopping at Central and Causeway Bay. Denny told me about a funny trend in Hong Kong now—big brand shops have little coffee shops and a lot of rich ladies hang out there for tea. Designer tea parties, that's what I'd like to call them. We saw Joyce, Alexandra House, Giorgio Armani, Louis Vuitton, Gucci and Harvey Nichols where Denny got attached to a bright yellow wallet.

It was the first of the numerous bright yellow things that lit up that day.

I didn't think I would find anything of interest in those stores—after all, I am an ukay girl and a big bargain hunter. Luxury shopping and my bank account don't mix. That is, until we went to the The Landmark and we stopped by the Celine boutique and I saw the limited edition Celine Havaianas.

Not ready to splurge that early in the morning, I asked Denny, "Will we still see a Celine boutique after we go to Harbour City?"

He said, "Let me put it this way—we will be seeing Celine boutiques before, during and after we go to Harbour City."

Ah, Hong Kong. You've got to love it.

Queue, r, s, t, u, v

One thing I've noticed about Hong Kong is you don't know where one shopping building ends and another starts. Denny said that there's really a conscious effort to connect malls and buildings for the convenience of the people, so they don't have to walk outside if it's raining or if the sun is too hot. It didn't matter if the buildings were owned by different people, they cooperated to make things better for consumers. I thought that was a remarkable thing.

Denny was very excited about our next stop. But when we reached A Bathing Ape, the door was closed and there was a long line of people outside. Young people, old people, funky-looking people, serious-looking people. They were all waiting to go inside Bathing Ape.

"Why?" I asked Denny. He didn't know either. There must be a huge sale going on, I thought. But I couldn't believe people would line up that early for a sale—it was only 10 in the morning.

Deciding to go back when the queue was gone, we went to our next stop. Tulip (16 On Lan Street), which looks like a big girl's dollhouse, sells floaty dresses, quirky

On your marks, get set, swipe

Yes, it's that time of the year again. The Hong Kong Tourism board kicks off the 2006 Hong Kong Shopping Festival today. The frenzy will last until the end of August. Tied in with 2006 Discover Hong Kong Year, this year's shopping fest promises to be even bigger, with over 7,500 merchant outlets promising to participate in the festivities. The fun also includes the Hong Kong Shopper of the Year contest (now with 20 participating teams from different countries) and the Grand Lucky Draw which would give away 113 prizes worth HK\$2.7 million. The grand prize is an Audemars Piguet Jules Audemars watch valued at HK\$590,000.

For more information, visit www.discoverhongkong.com.

clothes, vintage accessories and shabby chic pieces from Europe. The place felt magical—it was perfect for a photo shoot.

Break for lunch

Island Beverly (No. 1 Great George Street, Causeway Bay, Hong Kong) was our next stop. Strangely, a lot of them were still closed even if it was noon. As we went around the building, Denny said there was an interesting story behind the stores and he promised to share it with me during lunch.

Over deep-fried oysters, barbecued pork buns, Vietnamese-style shrimp rice rolls, siao long bun, pan-fried scallop cakes and shrimp dumplings at Superstar Seafood restaurant, Denny told me about the rise of youth malls in Hong Kong.

"We have a lot of young people who studied design. They don't want to work in an office and they think they know what young people want so many of them put up their own stores," he said. The stores are tiny—most of them just 30 to 40 square feet—but they make the most out of the space. The stores can be found in Island Beverly and in another building called Rise, which we would see later in the day.

The stores didn't become popular overnight but word spread, thanks to assistants who shopped there and then passed on the good news to the celebrities they work for.

Denny said that the store hours were strange because they depended on the owners' body clocks. "Young people go to parties at night and they wake up late. That's why the stores open late too."

What a fun way to make a living.

Late-night shopping

Thanks to APM, one of Hong Kong's newer shopping malls, I can proudly say that I rode all the lines of the MTR during my trip.

Located in the center of Kwun Tong, APM (Millennium City 5, 418 Kwun Tong Road, Kowloon) has been called the "pioneer of late-night shopping." I wonder what the vendors of the Ladies Market have to say about that.

Offering floor after floor of interesting stores, Kwun Tong stays open until about 2 a.m. And you'll probably need to stay until then to explore every little find in its numerous corners. One memorable store was MUJI (which literally means "no brand"), a Japanese-owned store that sells good quality items with no brand names. People were going crazy over their notebooks and gel pens. And yeah, I morphed into one of them.

There was a store called Princess, which sold only pink, furry and girly things and a

store called 2% that featured a lot of fun collectibles including Astroboy and On Dog and Friends items. Other interesting stores include D-mop and extravaganza.

"Happy Everyday," that's the tagline of APM. And why shouldn't shoppers be?

Mickey everywhere

I may have skipped Disneyland but Mickey still managed to find me. Cool store I.T. offered mouse merchandise with an extra dose of fashion.

Cantonyama at Tsim Sha Tsui (80 Canton Road) was another interesting stop with many stories packed with fashion pieces and knick knacks.

On our way to Rise Commercial Centre, we passed by another Louis Vuitton store and saw another long queue. It was both amusing and intriguing to see people so hell-bent on fashion that they'd line up for a long time under the heat of the sun to get close to expensive bags.

Rise (5-11 Granville Circuit, Tsim Sha Tsui) turned out to be awesome, even a little freaky. It was as if they searched the deepest corners of my heart for clothes I've dreamt of and put them together in one crazy building. Big dramatic tops, flowy blouses, rockin' shoes—felt like I was in Willy Wonka's factory, if he made clothes instead of cavity-makers.

A Bathing Ape, finally

We finally made it inside A Bathing Ape. It did not disappoint. I finally remembered why the brand seemed so familiar—I had read about it in Time magazine. A Bathing Ape is a popular brand in Japan that has been called "the gold standard in cool." The store was different alright, good different—the patterned floors, racks of funky shelves, bright lights, shelves and shelves of really colorful shoes and sneakers on conveyor belts moving beneath our feet.

Denny asked the guy at the door why there was a queue earlier. There was no big sale, oh no. People were lining up because new stocks had arrived. Now that's a real passion for fashion.

A mad sprint

The shopping tour ended with a mad sprint from Kowloon to Hong Kong side because there was only one pair of Celine Havaianas left in my size and it was at Central, at the first Celine boutique we visited.

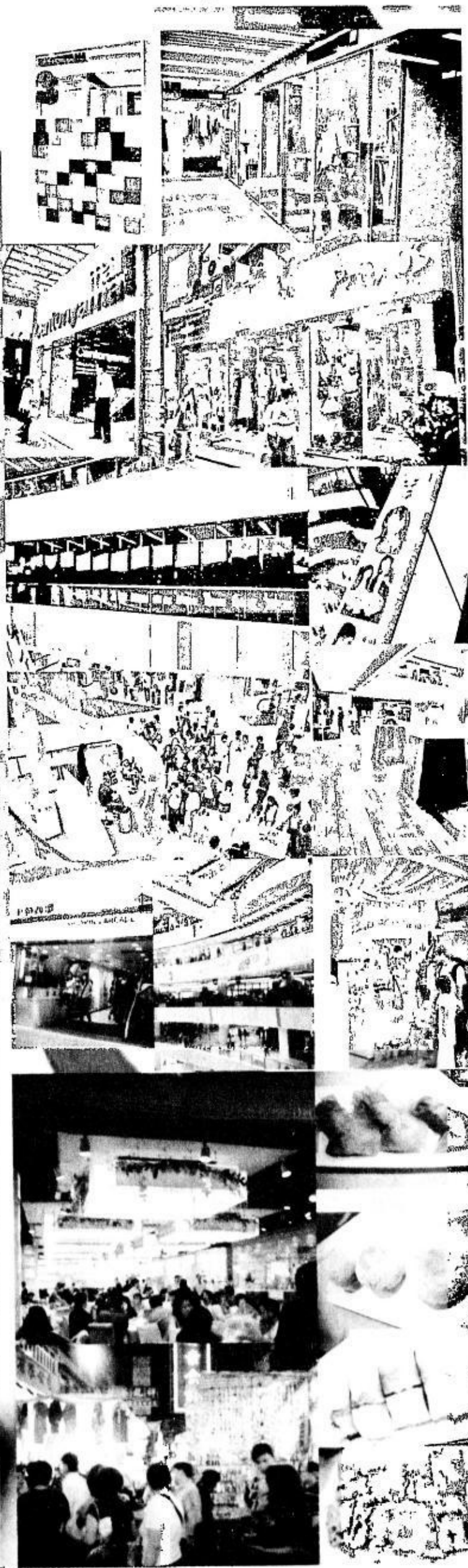
My feet were already killing me by that time and my heart pounded as we walked the long walk to the station. What if the last pair was gone? I thought. When it started to rain, Denny decided to have a little fun, "Now someone will get her feet wet and she'll think, I should buy new sandals. She'd walk into the store and buy the last pair of 37/38 Celine sandals..."

But no, I beat the other (imaginary) rain-soaked Havaianas-chasing women. The saleswomen smiled in amusement when they saw me. It was as if they knew I would rush back. I made it, with just a few minutes to spare before closing time.

Soon, our legs and feet were able to rest as we dined on roast goose, roast pork, beef with oyster sauce and deep-fried seaweed and shrimp paste roll at Yung Kee Restaurant. We ended the night with ice cream cones from Ben and Jerry's.

But it was only day two of our Hong Kong trip. I spent the next three days with my family eating and raiding the usual haunts—Lane Crawford, Toys R Us, HMV, Sasa, Causeway Bay, Tsim Sha Tsui, Ladies Market, Sham Shui Po.

Whether your thrill lies in luxury shopping or bargain-hunting, shopping in Hong Kong is always an adventure. It doesn't matter who you're with either. And whether you siphon your bank account dry or manage to control your spending, you will always come home loaded with stories to tell.





Fast, furious and stylin'

FOR TWO INCREDIBLE DAYS AND nights, a record number of participants and attendees turned the World Trade Center in Roxas Boulevard into a pit stop like no other. Styling Extreme 2006 lived up to its billing as the biggest and most prestigious convergence of car enthusiasts in the country.

Present were Heart Evangelista, Marc Nelson, Maritoni Fernandez, Rico Robles, Raymond Gutierrez, Bubbles Paraiso, Bianca Valerio, Devaughn, Brent Javier, Rich Herrera, Champ Lui-Pio of Hale and Xander Angeles.

There was a break-dancing competition that was judged by world-famous break-dancing champion and choreographer, BBoy Crumbs. The DJs that brought the house down were Manolet Dario, JJ Flores, Miss Lisa, GP Reyes, Mars Miranda and Invisibl Skratch Piklz featuring DJ QBert, Shortkut and Yogafrog. The real highlight of the two-day event was the Car Show proper where over \$5,000 in cash prizes were up for grabs. Judged by RJ De Vera and LJ Garcia, legendary figures in the car-tuning scene, a dazzling display of well-pimped rides competed for 12 excit-

ing categories.

Dennis Go's beautifully-modified 1995 Honda Civic bagged the Best in Show award and the \$1,000 prize. Best SUV/Truck honors went to the awesome Ford 180 of Johnny Chua. Irwin Dizon's Chevy Impala won Best Lowrider. Gerald Hidalgo's 1996 Honda Civic actually won both in the Best Paint and Best Graphics category while Alec Ong's 2005 Honda Jazz also won two awards—Best Multimedia and Best Audio Install. Other awards were won by ERS for Best Team, Atoy Body Shop for Best Team Represent-

tation while Import Hook-Ups of a Honda 52000 and Toyota Altezza of Philson Co and Keith Bryan Ham took home the SX Choice Award. Other category winners are: Nissan Open—Vic Pena (Nissan 350Z), Mitsubishi Open—Alvin Gan (Evo8), Toyota Open—Richie Wee (Toyota Camry), Japanese Open—Ronald Nazal (Subaru STI WRC), American Open—Elmer Parrenas (Ford Lynx 2001 series), European Open—Allen Dizon (Audi TT), Korean Open—Lyman Chua (Hyundai Getz), Dub Open—Tony Pineda (Ford Expedition).

RJ De Vera, a consultant for the movie "The Fast And The Furious" was impressed with the car show entries. "A good number of them will definitely do well in car shows in the States," he said. "My advice to those who want to build their own cars and seriously pursue this career is that you have to give it time and you got to love what you do."

More than anything else, you have to do it for yourself."

Start revving up your engines for next year's tour. It's going to be another thrilling ride.

Fashion

From page F4

1940s Varga girls with bright lips and eyeliner. "She was literally born under a lucky star and everything she does is just perfect and gorgeous," Greene describes. "She knows the right makeup, the right hair, the right outfits—everything comes to her very easily."

Greene also found the task of making Lohan's eyes "visible but hidden" a challenge. "We wanted to see her and not see her; make it gorgeous and beautiful but also make it a masquerade," Greene says. The final look chosen for the masquerade ball is Italian-themed, inspired by traditional Venetian masks. Greene used Swarovski crystals and swirls of gold traced around Ashley's eyes. "The look starts out flawless," Greene says. "But when she loses her luck, everything becomes smeary. We see a physical transformation which helps to sell the idea that her luck has really gone sour."

The newly-unlucky Ashley wears a hodgepodge of clothes that reflect her unfortunate turn of events. "She starts borrowing clothes from other people, which puts her in a lot of color and a lot of different kinds of clothing that she would never have worn as Ashley, the successful and lucky young woman," says Jones. "Her 'borrowed look' is a mish-mash of sorts and takes her into a palette of bright colors, casual clothing and jeans. Her hair and makeup become clean and simple, with a natural prettiness showing through."

Ashley's look hits rock bottom as she gets doused with real mud. Greene put in a bid to help Lohan through it by offering up face mask mud instead of real mud, but Lohan refused, "I was like, fine, let me just do it," she says, laughing.

Andy on the Runway

Anne Hathaway plays Andy Sachs who just got of college in the fashion-forward comedy "The Devil Wears Prada" opposite Meryl Streep. As Andy steps into the dizzying world of New York fashion where Runway Magazine is considered the Holy Grail, it dawns on her that being Miranda's (Streep) assistant will take more than drive and determination.

To become the perfect assistant, Andy will need to make herself over in Miranda's image. Soon, much to her boyfriend's (Adrian Grenier) dismay, she can talk the talk, walk the walk flawlessly and never again confuse Dolce with Gabbana. But the more of life she sees through Miranda's eyes, the more she begins to grasp that Miranda's world is a fabulous but a terribly lonely one—and that sometimes great success depends on great sacrifice.

Anne Hathaway, the breakout star of "The Princess Diaries," and who had a key role in "Brokeback Mountain," portrays Andy, a journalism student who believes she can change the world after leaving the comforts of Northwestern University and landing in the big city.

Andy, says (director) David Frankel, "is on a journey that we all take when we get our first jobs and discover what the real world is like. We're faced with ethical and moral choices that we never considered, and we learn about ourselves." Hathaway adds, "If you're over age 21, you've probably had some of Andy's experiences."

In the distorted aesthetics of the New York fashion scene, a size 6 like Andy stands out. "She is a beautiful girl who is not model-thin, which is an important distinction for this character," says Frankel. Hathaway embodied Andy with grace and humor. "Anne is funny and will do things in a way that not a lot of actors could do," Finerman adds, "and every time she does so, it is fresh and new. She finds the funny and never holds back."

Andy's first moments with Miranda are a soul-crushing disaster. Judged simply by her cotton blend sweater and shapeless skirt, Andy is dismissed with a wave of Miranda's hand. But Andy doesn't take no for answer. She may not be the best-dressed girl in the room, but she's smart and she'll work hard. This makes an impression on a woman to whom no one dares even ask a question, let alone contradict.

Dressed in drab or face full of mud, Anne Hathaway and Lindsay Lohan pull it off in the most drop-dead gorgeous fashion in "Just My Luck" and "The Devil Wears Prada," soon to open in Philippine cinemas from 20th Century Fox to be distributed by Warner Bros.

Ang sarap
maging sexy!

No meat.
Low in fat.
Rich in protein.
Full of flavor.
Go figure!



ANNE Hathaway
as Andy Sachs

Fashion sensibilities set in Motion



LUCKY
Lindsay

The ONLY GREEN TEA that's
brewed & bottled
ON the SAME day!

Natural green tea leaves

Not just powder.
Not just concentrates.
C2 contains pure, natural
green tea leaves perfectly brewed
to release their delicate flavor.

Catechins

C2 brews natural
green tea leaves gently
to retain the antioxidants
normally lost in other
extraction processes.

What you read is what you drink—all the
goodness, the freshness and flavor of
natural green tea leaves of the *Camellia
sinensis* variety, brewed and bottled on
the very same day only by **C2 Green Tea!**

C2 Green Tea is the only green tea drink
that goes through the unique process of
capturing the purest, most natural flavor of
Green Tea so it gets to you the way it should.

And that makes the C2 difference!



使用天然绿茶叶

Mandarin for
"brewed from natural
green tea leaves"

DROP-DEAD GORGEOUS TRENDSET-
ters Lindsay Lohan and Anne Hath-
away hit it cool and chic in the work-
place as they blend their own style sensibili-
ties in the upcoming fashion comedies "Just
My Luck" and "The Devil Wears Prada."

"Just My Luck" is the story of Ashley Al-
bright (Lindsay Lohan), the luckiest woman
in the world, a person to whom all the good
things in life have come far too easily.

Lucky Ashley

She can pick a lottery ticket at random and
hit the jackpot. In New York, the world's busi-
est city, Ashley never has to wait for a cab.
And she has a terrific job as an account execu-
tive at a prestigious public relations firm. Ev-
erything goes Ashley's way. She was never
prepared for her luck to run out during a mas-
querade ball when she got together with Jake
(Chris Pine) on the dance floor. At that mo-
ment, their luck switched and Ashley's world
turns upside down.

Lohan, a fashion enthusiast, relished the
opportunity to bring her sensibilities to Ash-
ley's wardrobe. At the film's start, Ashley's
"lucky look" is quickly established. "She is this
pristine, dressed-in-white, almost imperme-
able person who can walk through the streets
of New York and never get a drop of anything
on her," says Jones. "She wears a white Ver-
sace cashmere coat in the opening shots of the
movie. Underneath is a sheer top in a creamy
white color with gold threads and a great silk
charmeuse skirt. Very pale, high-heeled
Valentino boots, a pale Valentino purse and a
white cashmere pashmina complete the look.
She starts out in white and in shades of white
and continues that way until she loses her
luck."

To create that pristine, untouchable
sparkle, makeup artist Kimberly Greene pat-
terned Ashley's masquerade makeup after the

FASHION/F3



ANDY slowly morphs into Miranda.



LINDSAY Lohan as Ashley Albright



ABENSON

Appliance CELEBRATION

Hurry! Offers Until July 2, 2006

0%
interest
installment



*Enjoy 50% discount on this 256MB MP3 player when you buy participating TV models.

FREE DINNERWARE SET*



*Get a 16pc DINNERWARE SET or a 32pc DINNERWARE SET when you buy participating refrigerator and range when you shop from Abenson.

FREE FAN
WHEN YOU BUY AN AIRCON*

*The last aircon hurrah before the price increase! Still get a FREE Electric Fan when you buy participating room air conditioner from Abenson!

Appliance CELEBRATION

There are lots of reasons to CELEBRATE here at ABENSON! Check out our top reasons

HERE AT ABENSON, GET A CHANCE TO WIN WHAT YOU BUY

ALL CITIBANK CARDHOLDERS ENJOY SHOPPING AT ABENSON! This year, Abenson along with Citibank, rolls out the WIN WHAT YOU BUY RAFFLE PROMO where 15 Abenson shoppers will get a chance to win back in shopping credits the amount of the appliance they bought. Plus, to give out more prizes there will be 50 lucky winners of appliances. There will be over 1.5million worth of prizes to be given away!

0% INSTALLMENT up to 24 months

ABENSON HAS RAFFLE, FREEBIES, EXCITING BUNDLES AND MANY OTHER GREAT PROMOTIONS! But to cap it all off, Abenson offers easy payment terms through 0% interest installment on all major credit cards. Customers get to buy their appliance in easy payment terms of up to 24 months! Buying appliance on installment has never been this light!

SECURITY BANK AIG American International BPI Express Credit BANKARD citibank Standard Chartered DGB Development Bank Equitable L.A.R.D. HSBC METROBANK

ABENSON BOHOL OPENS ON JUNE 30



Located at the second floor of Island City Mall, ABENSON Tagbilaran Bohol will be the first ever Abenson store in the island. It spans over 1,000 square meters & by far the biggest appliance showroom in the region. Abenson Bohol will surely catch the interest of Boholanos as they now get a chance to shop for the best appliance brands at great value deals!

ABENSON



Canon
Delighting You Always

LET OUR TECHNOLOGY MOVE YOU.

Capture still photos and record videos simultaneously with Photo DV.



Get photo and video output with vibrant, lifelike quality with the Canon exclusive DIGIC DV Imaging Processor.

Reduce glare and ghosting and wobble blurs. Expect only images with exceptional clarity, contrast and resolution with

Superb Optical Performance.



Enjoy home movies with a theater-like viewing experience when you record in True High Resolution 16:9 Widescreen.



POWERED BY
DiGiC DV

Canon Digital Camcorders.

ELURA 100
• 1.33 megapixels
• 20x Optical Zoom

Get a free carrying case, miniDV tape/s for all models, and battery for selected models: ZR700, Optura 50, Optura 60, Optura 600 and Optura S1



ZR100
• 1.33 megapixels
• 20x Optical Zoom

ZR400
• 1.33 megapixels
• 20x Optical Zoom

ZR500
• 1.33 megapixels
• 20x Optical Zoom

ZR600
• 1.33 megapixels
• 20x Optical Zoom

ZR700
• 1.33 megapixels
• 20x Optical Zoom

OPTURA 50
• 2.2 megapixels
• 10x Optical Zoom

OPTURA 60
• 2.2 megapixels
• 10x Optical Zoom

OPTURA 600
• 2.2 megapixels
• 10x Optical Zoom

OPTURA S1
• 2.2 megapixels
• 10x Optical Zoom

Install on an original warranty issued by Canon Marketing (Philippines), Inc.

Canon Marketing (Philippines), Inc. 2F Marvin Plaza, 2153 Don Chino Rocas Avenue cor. V.A. Rufino St., Makati City

Tel: 804-0000 • Fax: 810-9797 • info@canon.com.ph • www.canon.com.ph

Available at:



ABENSON
Enjoy
0%
interest
installment
up to 12 months
on gadgets!

Choose the best
mobile phone,
MP3 player, Digital camera,
Video camera and more!
All at Abenson!

SONY DVD-605
20x Optical Zoom / 800x
Digital Zoom, DVD+RW /
DVD-R Multi Format
Compatibility, Easy Handycam
P3,084 / 12mos.
cash P36,999
FREE
Body Bag & Pouch

SHARP 25V-FP350S
25" Colored TV,
Universal Plus Function &
Personal Preference,
MTS Decode/SAP
P1,600 / 12mos.
cash P19,198
Get an MP3 Player for P999

APPLE IPOD Nano 2GB
Up to 500 songs, Up to
25,000 Photos, Up to 14 Hours
Music Playback, Up to 4 Hours
Slide Show, 1.5" Display
P1,915 / 6mos.
cash P11,490

LG DK130
Compact and Slim Design,
DVD / VCD / MP3/WMA/JPEG/
DivX Playback, 3D Surround,
Progressive Scan
P2,999 SRP
FREE LG Watch

WOW MAGIC SING MABUHAY
Contains 2064 Built-in Song,
100% Wow Philippines
Picture Background
P11,450 SRP

**Join Abenson's
Videocam
Techie Talks &
get FREE consultation
on the latest gadgets**

**Capture the moments on these
dates and venues**

DATE	VENUE	TIME
June 24	Sony Quad 1	Saturday 4:00-7:00 pm
June 25	Sony Shangri-La Mall	Sunday 4:00-6:30 pm
June 30	Sony Alabang	Friday 3:30-6:00 pm
July 1	Sony Eastwood, Libis	Saturday 5:00-7:30 pm
July 1	Canon Cyberzone, SM North Edge	Saturday 4:00-6:00 pm
July 2	Sony Avant, Greenhills	Sunday 4:00-6:30 pm
July 7	Canon Eastwood, Libis	Friday 4:00-6:00 pm
July 8	Sony Robinson's Place Ermita	Saturday 4:00-6:30 pm
July 9	Sony Robinson's Galleria	Sunday 4:30-7:00 pm
July 15	Sony Harrison Plaza	Saturday 4:30-7:00 pm
July 16	Sony Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall	Sunday 4:00-6:30 pm
July 16	Canon Robinson's Galleria	Sunday 4:00-6:00 pm
July 22	Sony Missouri, Greenhills	Saturday 4:00-6:30 pm
July 23	Canon Robinson's Place Ermita	Sunday 4:00-6:00 pm
July 23	Sony Market Market Mall	Sunday 4:00-6:30 pm
July 29	Sony Cyberzone, SM North Edge	Saturday 4:30-7:00 pm
July 29	Canon Missouri, Greenhills	Saturday 4:00-6:00 pm

offer ends until July 2, 2005 only. Abenson's website is subject to change without notice. Image may vary from actual item. Some models may have limited stocks.

Win What You Buy with Citibank PayLite

15 lucky Citibank cardholders can win back their PayLite purchases of up to P100,000. Plus 50 consolation prizes will be given away in the raffle draw.

Exclusively available at:

ABENSON

June 12 - July 13, 2006

Per DB: NCR Permit No. 2075, Series of 2006



Subject to Citibank approval. 0% interest is available on selected items at 3, 6, 9, 12, 18 & 24 months for a single receipt of at least P3,000 and is valid only for PayLite Monthly Installment. Does that are paid in full.

citibank

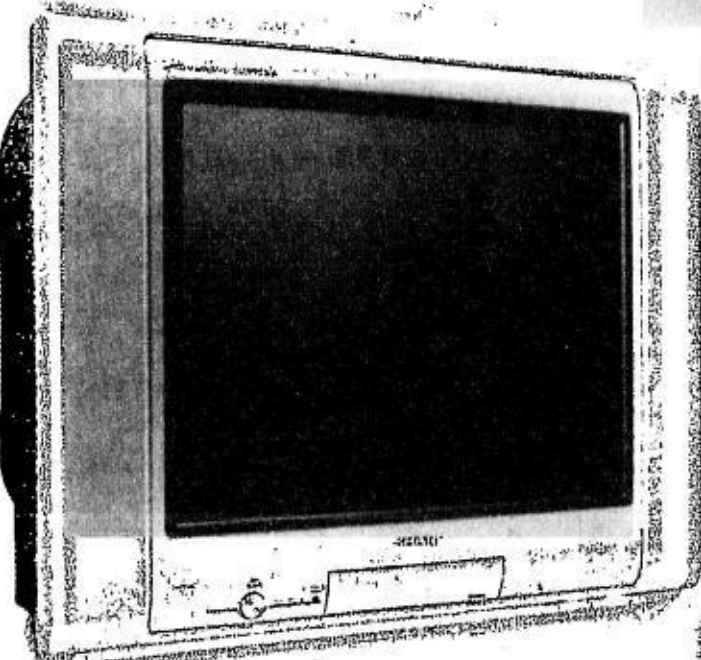
THE ELEGANT BLACK PANEL, BOTTOM SPEAKER, STUNNER.

Watch your favorite movies in stunning enhanced audio on a TV with stunning good looks. This design will surely make your home look charmingly elegant.



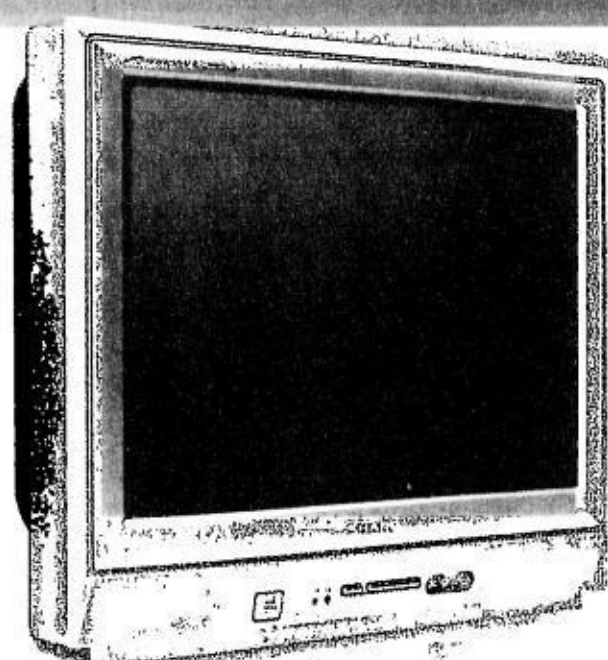
THE CLASSY SILVER PANEL, SIDE SPEAKER, ROOM CENTERPIECE.

Bring your family closer. Watch TV together. This classy design is tailor-fit to be the main attraction in your living room. Plus, with its dual side-speaker design, the superior quality sound can be enjoyed by everyone in the room. Now that's family orientation.



THE STYLISH SILVER PANEL, BOTTOM SPEAKER, SPACE SAVER DESIGN.

Save on space, not on style. The bottom speaker design and 21-inch view screen makes this stylish TV perfect for your bedroom.



WHATEVER LOOKS GOOD TO YOU, IT'S SHARP.

Energy-saving function.
Adjustable screen brightness to conserve electric power.

Great Connection.
The Video/Audio output line terminals allow you to connect audio amplifiers and monitors, while the Audio/Video IN terminals let you hook-up your VCR, DVD, and VCD players.

Stand-out sound.
Enhanced audio technology with MTS/SAP function on selected models.

Blue screen display.
A cool blue screen display comes on in case of poor channel signal.



Selected models are available in 21, 25 and 29 inch variants.

**The Sharp
Flat TV
Series**

EVERYTHING'S BETTER IF IT'S SHARP.

www.sharp.ph

0% up to 24 months on Big Screen TV's

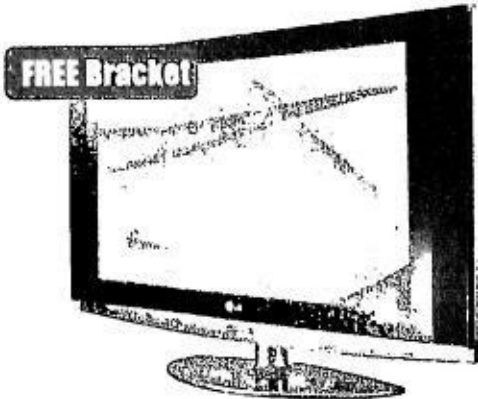
Hurry! Until July 24

0% 24 mos.

ADD P5000 GET A HOME THEATER

SONY KLV V32A10
32" Bravia LCD Television,
1 megapixel HD Panel
178° Wide Viewing Angle
1300:1 High Contrast Ratio
Multi System TV Tuner

159,990 cash
6,667/mo
for 24 months



LG 32LX2R

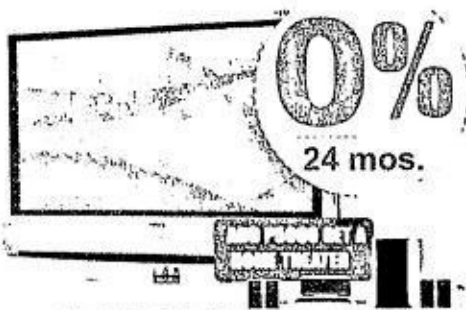
32" LCD TV, 1200:1 contrast ratio,
HDTV ready television
1366x768 pixels

94,999 cash
7,917/mo
for 12 months

FREE Bracket

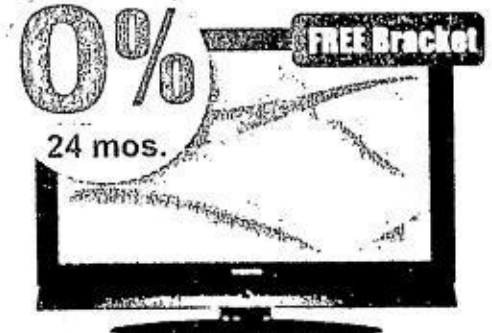
SAMSUNG LA32R71B
32" LCD TV,
5000:1 Dynamic Contrast Ratio
Digital Natural Image Engine
PC Input

99,900 cash
4,163/mo
for 24 months



SONY KLV S40A10
40" Bravia LCD Television,
Wega Gate Navigator
SRS Tru Surround XT

179,990 cash
7,500/mo
for 24 months



SAMSUNG LA32M61B
32" LCD TV
1366x768 Resolution
Digital Natural Image Engine
5000:1 Dynamic Contrast Ratio
SRS Tru Surround XT

149,900 cash
6,246/mo
for 24 months

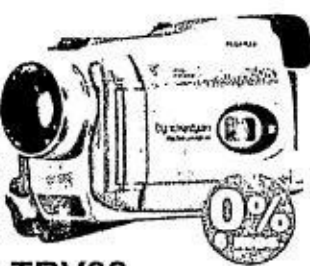
SONY

HANDYCAM



CAMERA CLEARANCE SALE
save as much as
P15,000
LAST FEW UNITS
Avail of the offers in selected Abenson stores!

Before 34,999
NOW **19,999**
SAVE P15,000



Sony DCR-TRV38
Mini DV Camcorder, 3.5" LCD Screen
10X Optical Zoom / 120x Digital Zoom

Before 39,999
NOW **29,999**
SAVE P10,000



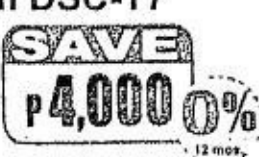
Sony Videocam DVD-200

Before 32,999
NOW **29,999**
SAVE P3,000



Sony Videocam DCR-PC55

Before 27,999
NOW **23,999**
SAVE P4,000



Sony Digicam DSC-T7

Before 32,999
NOW **27,999**
SAVE P5,000



Sony Digicam DSC-T9

Applicable on selected items and for cash transactions. Subject to stock availability in store. Promo offers in selected Abenson stores only. Some items are open box and display units.

playback

shoot

DVD Handycam - Capture the Thrills in 5.1ch Surround Sound!

Sony's latest range of DVD Handycam models

DVD605*	DVD705*	DVD755	DVD805	DVD905
• 1/6" Advanced HAD CCD • Carl Zeiss Vario-Tessar Lens • 20x Optical Zoom / 800x Digital Zoom	• 1/5.5" 1.0" Mega Pixel CCD • Mega Pixel Engine • High Quality 16:9 Widescreen Recording	• 1/5.5" 1.0" Mega Pixel CCD • Mega Pixel Engine • Memory Stick Duo slot • Comes w/ External Mic	• 1/3" 3.31 Mega Pixels CCD • Mega Pixel Engine • High Resolution 3.0 Mega Pixels Still Image	• ClearVid CMOS Sensor with Enhanced Imaging Processor • Carl Zeiss Vario-Sonnar T* Lens • 4 Mega Pixel Still Image Recording • 3.5" Clear Photo LCD Plus Touch Screen

P36,999 P44,999 P54,999 P64,999 P74,999

DVD-Recordable

DVD-Rewritable

DVD+Rewritable

DMR1051 30 mins. P 199	DMR60551 60 mins. P 399	DMR3051 30 mins. (3 pcs.) P 549	DMW1052 30 mins. P 299	DMW6052 60 mins. P 599	DMW3052 30 mins. (3 pcs.) P 799
------------------------------	-------------------------------	---------------------------------------	------------------------------	------------------------------	---------------------------------------

For more info regarding promotions and compatible accessories, pls. contact below or visit your nearest Authorized Sony dealers.

Exclusively Distributed by: Sony Philippines Inc. - 26th Flr. Tower 1, 6766 The Enterprise Center, Ayala Avenue cor. Paseo de Roxas, Makati City, 1226 PHILIPPINES

SONY Sony Summer Pleasures 2006

Contact us to get hold of a **FREE** copy of Sony's promo catalogue at 878-7600 or visit our website at www.sony.com.ph
Catch the promo craze this summer only from Sony! Promo period: April 22 to July 2, 2006

like.no.other™



Exciting promos await you!
Get it at Abenson

ABENSON appliance CELEBRATION

Hurry! Until July 2 only

ON PARTICIPATING
AIRCON MODELS

0%
interest
installment

0%
interest

FREE
16PC
DINNERWARE SET

WHITE WESTINGHOUSE
WR1905C
7 cubic feet semi
automatic refrigerator
with power saving function
European design

12,200 cash
4,067 per month for 3 months

FREE

0%
interest

FREE
32PC
DINNERWARE SET

PANASONIC NRB905E
9 cubic feet,
manual defrost,
energy efficient,
dial control thermostat

14,799 cash
4,933 per month for 3 months

0%
interest

FREE
INDUSTRIAL
FAN

WHIRLPOOL WBM 10
10 cubic feet, no frost,
360° surround cool
horizontal door handle

19,995 cash
3,333 per month for 6 months

FREE
STANDFAN

0%
interest

FREE
STANDFAN

0%
interest

FREE
16PC
DINNERWARE SET

CONDURA WCOND006EA
.5HP manual control, anti
bacterial filter, 10 stage anti
rust treatment

8,764 cash

CARRIER WCARF010EA
1HP manual control
energy saving function
4way air distribution

14,678 cash

WHIRLPOOL AVM 585
1.0 cubic feet, electronic
control double emission
system, quartz grill function

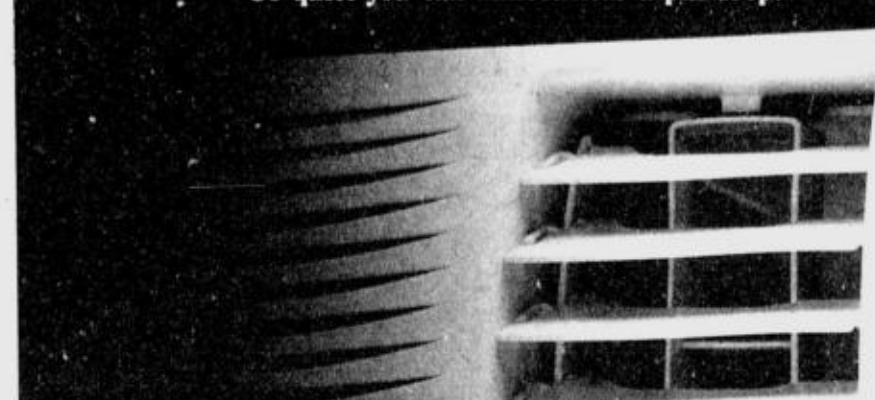
8,498 cash

The exclusive programmable
CHRONOSWITCH® & ENERGY SAVING PLUG®
Save up to 40% on electricity consumption.



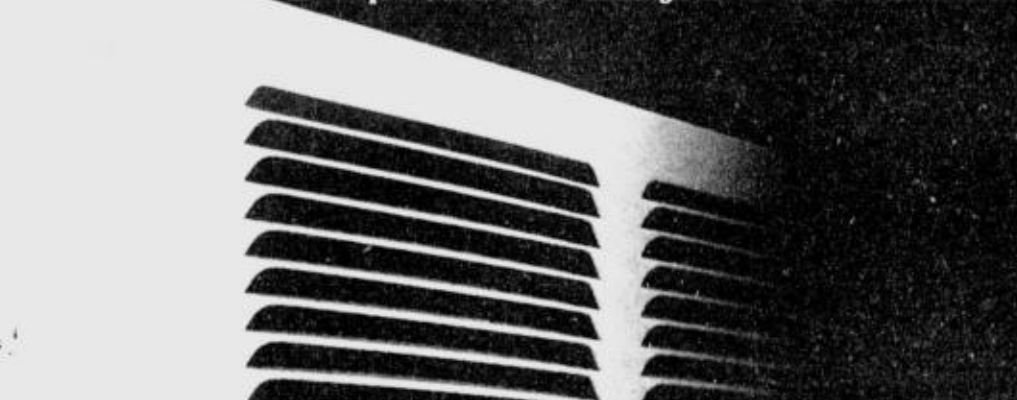
The exclusive **NOISESHIELD®**
anti-noise system

So quiet you can almost hear a pin drop.



The exclusive **DURA-LAST®**
technology

Optimized anti-rust design.



The better choice made even better.

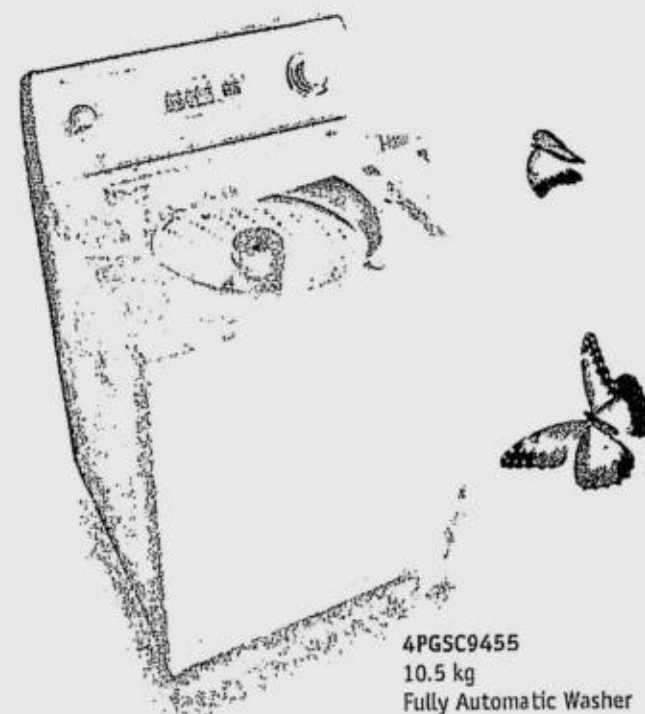
*Promo applicable on Cash and card purchases. Applicable on selected models. Picture may vary from actual item. Prices and specifications may change without prior notice. Per DTI NCR Permit no 1366 Series of 2006

VISIT AN ABENSON STORE NEAR YOU!

Alabang 850-8850/8914 8509036	Angeles (045) 888-9086 / 6259623
Avant 7582315 to 20	Bilhan (049) 411-4511
Balangas (043) 723-6790/0934/ 1472	Cainta 1 645-0402 to 04
Cabanatuan (044) 464-1482	Calamba (049) 545-7034/35
Cainta 2 681-6301 to 05	Commonwealth 951-8976/8991
Carmona (046) 430-2701/04	Dasmariñas (046) 416-2104-1144/5287
Congressional 927-9390/9520/9561	Ermila 536-7914/400-0248/49
Dau (045) 892-4295 (045) 812-4130 (045) 624-0268	Farmers 911-1103/1494
Fairview 939-7906/7810 935-7911	Galleria 832-9101/05/9117
Fillinvest 850-3775 842-2951	General Trias (046) 419-1148/1150
Galleria 632-9101/05/9117	Imus (046) 471-8020/30
Harrison Plaza 521-8560/69/88/94	Kalookan 363-3346/5338
Jaka 829-2686/87	Libis 887-1613/1698
Las Piñas 872-0576/77	Lotus (046) 515-5749/51
Lipa (043) 404-1551 753-3142	Makati 812-2882/1584
Lucena (042) 373-0443/46	Metropoint 833-7685/7829/8196
Malabon 287-0478/0344/9932	Missouri 722-1264/4187
Metropolis 809-8174/8921	721-0590
Pasig 656-6643/47	Pearl Plaza 851-8401/03
Plaridel (044) 795-3271	Quad 818-8453/819-5863
Quezon City 724-2570/2501/2591	Riverbanks 941-5003/5191/5180
Rosario (046) 438-5457	San Pablo (049) 562-8242
Rustans 911-2313/3484/2375	Showroom 631-5188
Shangri-la 838-8017/18/19/49/80	Sla Rosa (049) 534-4869/4619
St. Francis 633-1362/64	SM City 920-9161/63
Tayuman 262-5787/98/86	927-9518/9506
	Tarlac (045) 985-1278/1253
	The Fort 886-0620/6491/92
	R-AB Angeles (045) 625-8456
	Valenzuela 277-9539/38/39

ABENSON

HANDWASHED CLEAN DONE HANDS-FREE



When it's superb engineering and intuitive performance you're after, the Whirlpool Washing Machine is all that and more. With its hassle-free innovation, it has the ability to take on big loads without taking too much of your time. It is also conveniently designed to take care of the toughest of stains in the most delicate of fabrics, almost as if you washed it by hand.

Now this is what cleaning power is all about.



Xtra Roll Action Agitator
Ensures roll over of
clothes for a cleaner,
whiter wash.



Hotwash Function
Guarantees the removal of
stubborn dirt with the
built-in heater.



Heavy Duty Large Capacity
Can accommodate huge
loads without compromising
quality.



4PLBR8543
10.5 kg
Fully Automatic
Washer



WWT24H
10.5 kg
Fully Automatic
Washer with Hotwash



WWD22
8.5 kg
Fully Automatic Washer
with Stainless Tub

Showrooms:
Alabang G/F Alabang Home Depot, Lot 103-117 Alabang Zapote Road cor. Fillinvest Avenue, Westgate Alabang, Muntinlupa City, 771-2272 • Cebu 3/F Sogo Home and Office Center, Ayala Avenue, Cebu Business Park, Cebu City, (032) 232-1061 • Makati 2/F Anson Emporium, Pasay Road, Makati City 843-5040 • Ortigas 2/F Automatic Center, Ortigas Home Depot, Julia Vargas Avenue, Ortigas Center, 635-9010 • Quezon City 222 D Iuazon St. cor. L. Castillo St., Quezon City, 732-7370 loc. 101-103



WHIRLPOOL QUALITY EXPRESS SERVICE

